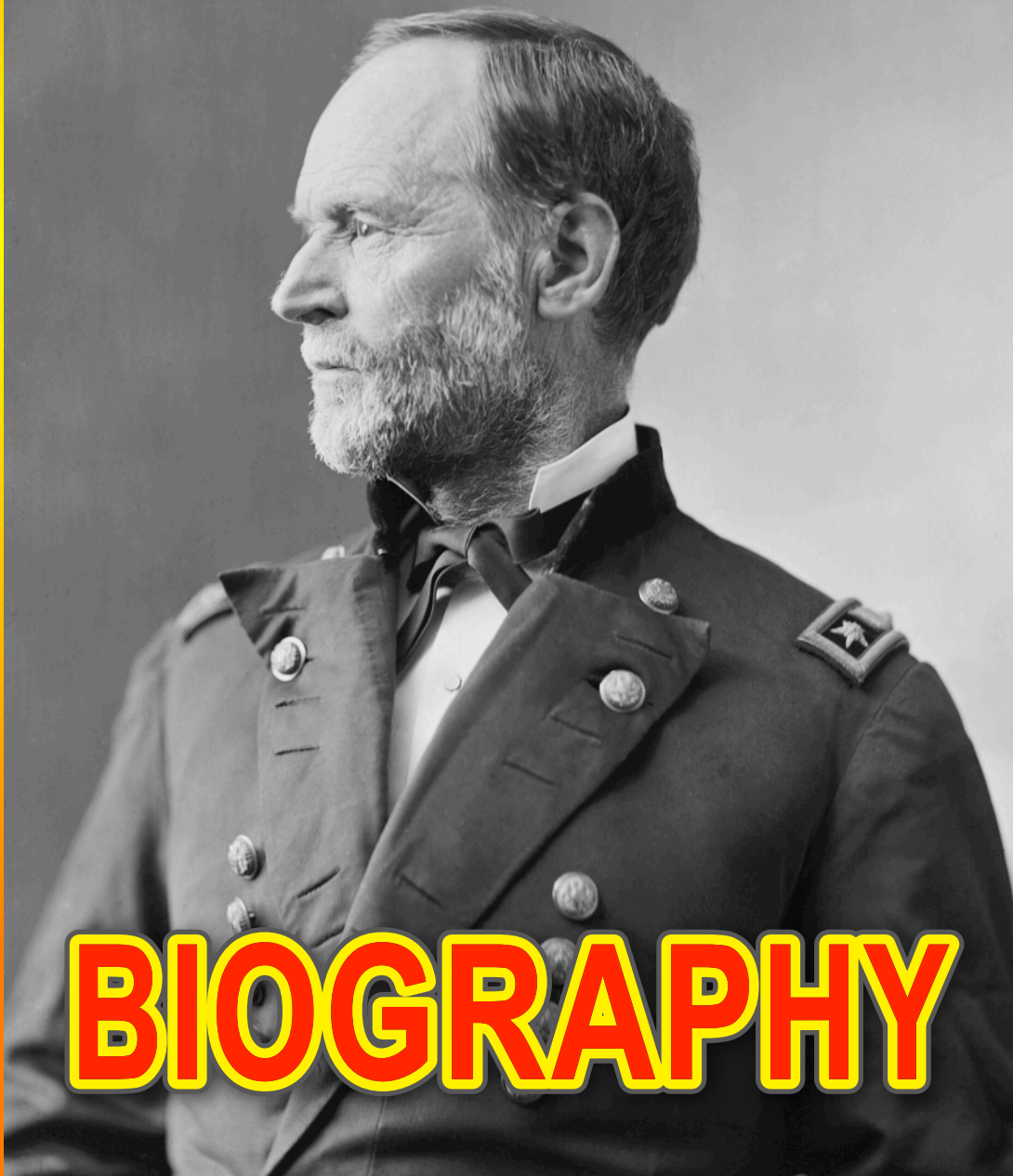


WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



BIOGRAPHY

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William Tecumseh Sherman was born on February 8, 1820, in Ohio. He graduated from West Point military academy in 1840, and was then posted to various places throughout the southern states without seeing any real military action. He quickly became bored of this, and so spent time in California while there was money to be made during and after the Gold Rush.

In 1859, Sherman went to Louisiana to run a military academy. With Civil War looking ever more likely, Sherman warned those looking to leave the Union that a war would be long and futile. But state after state in the south left the Union in 1861, including Louisiana. At that point, Sherman moved to St. Louis, Missouri, hoping to avoid the conflict.

But in the end, Sherman rejoined the army and fought for the Union side. At first, he complained about the situation, and kept declaring the Confederate side had more troops than it did. All this gave Sherman a reputation for being troubled, even unfit to serve, and he was given leave.

On his return, he served with General Ulysses S. Grant in the Army of West Tennessee. He commanded at the battle at Shiloh. It was a difficult battle against a strong Confederate side, but the Union secured victory in the end. Sherman and Grant continued to work together, and they eventually took Vicksburg from the enemy.

After that, Sherman commanded three armies, and he embarked on a destructive war path. His strategy was to make the enemy lose the will to fight. He did this by destroying huge areas of enemy land in Georgia on his 'March to the Sea'. On December 21, 1864, Sherman and his men captured the Georgian city of Savannah. Sherman then sent a message to Abraham Lincoln, offering him the city as a Christmas present.

Such actions ultimately helped the Union win the Civil War. When Ulysses S. Grant later became president, he made Sherman commander of the U.S Army. In this role, Sherman took a hard line against Native Americans who attacked settlers and railroad workers, although he spoke out against their mistreatment on reservations. In February 1891, Sherman died in New York City.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'warned'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'warned' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'warned'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'warned'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'warned' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: futile	pointless

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

At first, Sherman saw little military action, so he left active service for a while to run a military academy in Louisiana.

During the war, Sherman worked with Ulysses S. Grant, and won important victories.

William T. Sherman was born in Ohio in 1820, and trained at West Point military academy.

In 1864, Sherman went on his 'March to the Sea', destroying a huge area of Georgia as he went.

After the war, Sherman was commander of the U.S. Army, and he was involved in fighting against Native Americans.

But Sherman eventually fought for the Union side in the Civil War.

When Louisiana left the Union in 1861, Sherman left the state, as he did not wish to fight a civil war.

Get to the facts

1 Where did Sherman run a military academy?

2 When did Louisiana leave the Union?

3 Which general did Sherman serve with?

4 Which state did Sherman destroy large parts of?

5 When did Sherman capture Savannah?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Letter to Abraham Lincoln

Write a letter that Sherman might have sent to Abraham Lincoln after the capture of Savannah, Georgia, in December 1864.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – futile Synonym – pointless

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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