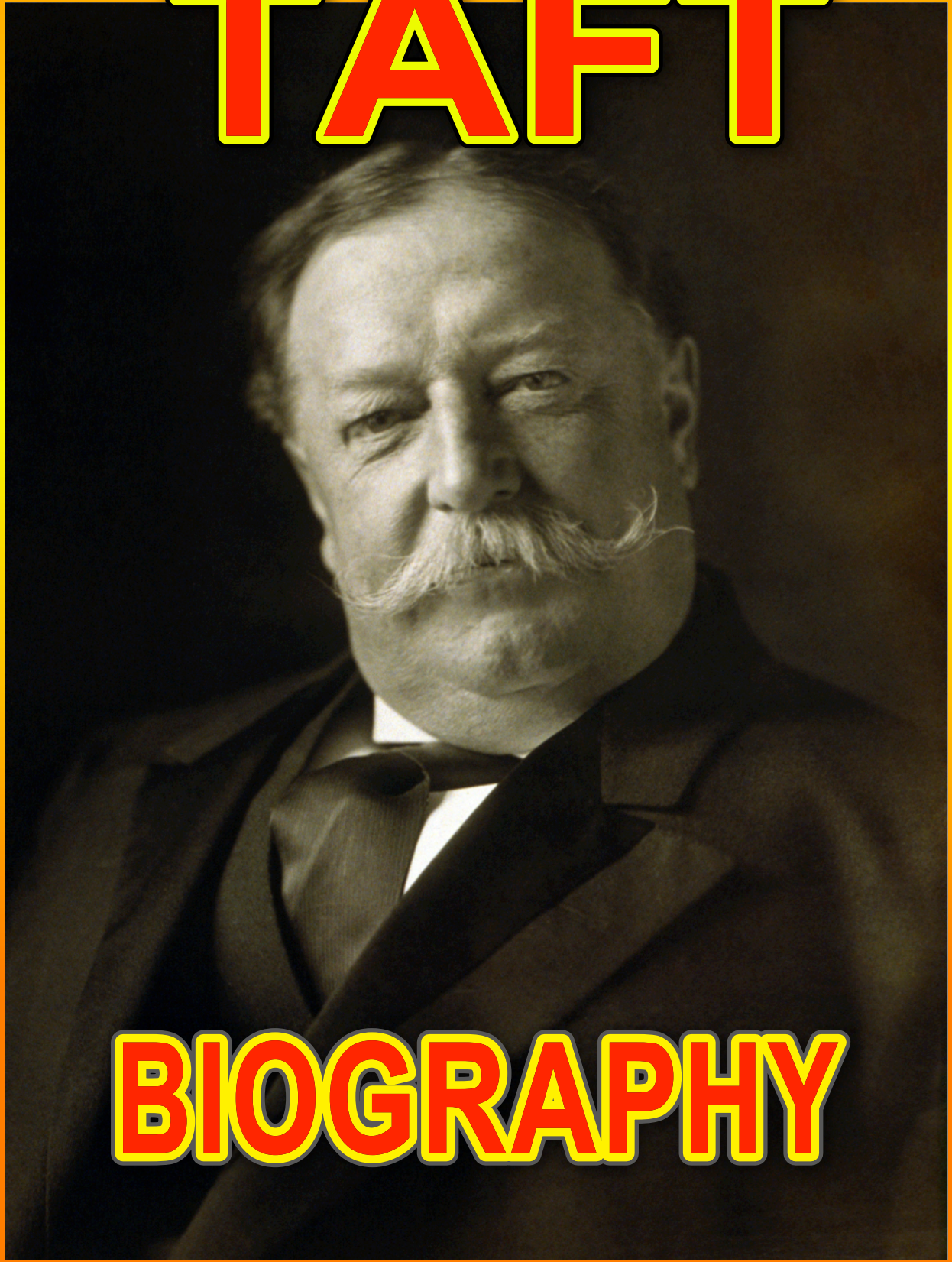


WILLIAM TAFT



BIOGRAPHY

WILLIAM TAFT

William Howard Taft (September 15, 1857 – March 8, 1930) was born to the wealthy Taft family of Ohio. He went into law and was appointed the youngest ever Solicitor-General at the age of 32.

He was then put in charge of organizing a commission to rule the Philippines and was made the first civilian Governor-General of the Philippines. In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Taft Secretary of War in order to help him become his presidential successor.

Taft won the presidency in 1908. During his presidency he fought for anti-corruption and overseas he concentrated on supporting Latin America. However, in doing all of this, he did not realise he was losing support politically and so was defeated in his bid for a second term in the presidential election of 1912.

After the First World War, President Warren Harding appointed Taft Chief Justice of the United States. This meant that Taft was the only person to have been both president and had a seat on the Supreme Court.

On March 8, 1930, Taft died in Washington D.C, where he had made his home. His funeral was the first funeral of a president to be broadcast on the radio.

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 'support'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'support' 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: overseas	abroad

Sequencing

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

But this meant Taft lost support at home, and was not re-elected.

Later on, Taft became Chief Justice of the United States.

Then Taft was appointed Governor-General of the Philippines.

William Taft was born in 1857 to a wealthy family.

After that, President Roosevelt made Taft Secretary of War.

Taft first went into law and became the youngest ever Solicitor-General.

In 1908, Taft became president. He concentrated on Latin America.

Get to the facts

1 How old was Taft when he became a solicitor-general?

2 When did Taft become Secretary of War?

3 When did Taft become president?

4 Who appointed Taft Chief Justice?

5 When did Taft die?

Make a story...

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

The funeral of William Taft

I tuned the radio to listen to the broadcast of William Taft's funeral... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'support'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'support' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'support'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'support'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'support' means.

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 – overseas Synonym – abroad

Sequencing:

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

But this meant Taft lost support at home, and he was not re-elected.

Later on, Taft became Chief Justice of the United States.

Then Taft was appointed Governor-General of the Philippines.

William Taft was born in 1857 to a wealthy family.

After that, President Roosevelt made Taft Secretary of War.

Taft first went into law and became the youngest ever Solicitor-General.

In 1908, Taft became president. He concentrated on Latin America.

Get to the facts:

- 1 How old was Taft when he became a Solicitor-General?
- 2 When did Taft become Secretary of War?
- 3 When did Taft become president?
- 4 Who appointed Taft Chief Justice?
- 5 When did Taft die?

Make a story...

The funeral of William Taft

I tuned the radio to listen to the broadcast of William Taft's funeral... (now complete the story)

William Taft

William Howard Taft (September 15, 1857 – March 8, 1930) was born to the wealthy Taft family of Ohio. He went into law and was appointed the youngest ever Solicitor-General at the age of 32.

He was then put in charge of organizing a commission to rule the Philippines and was made the first civilian Governor-General of the Philippines. In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Taft Secretary of War in order to help him become his presidential successor.

Taft won the presidency in 1908. During his presidency he fought for anti-corruption and overseas he concentrated on supporting Latin America. However, in doing all of this, he did not realise he was losing support politically and so was defeated in his bid for a second term in the presidential election of 1912.

After the First World War, President Warren Harding appointed Taft Chief Justice of the United States. This meant that Taft was the only person to have been both president and had a seat on the Supreme Court.

On March 8, 1930, Taft died in Washington D.C, where he had made his home. His funeral was the first funeral of a president to be broadcast on the radio.