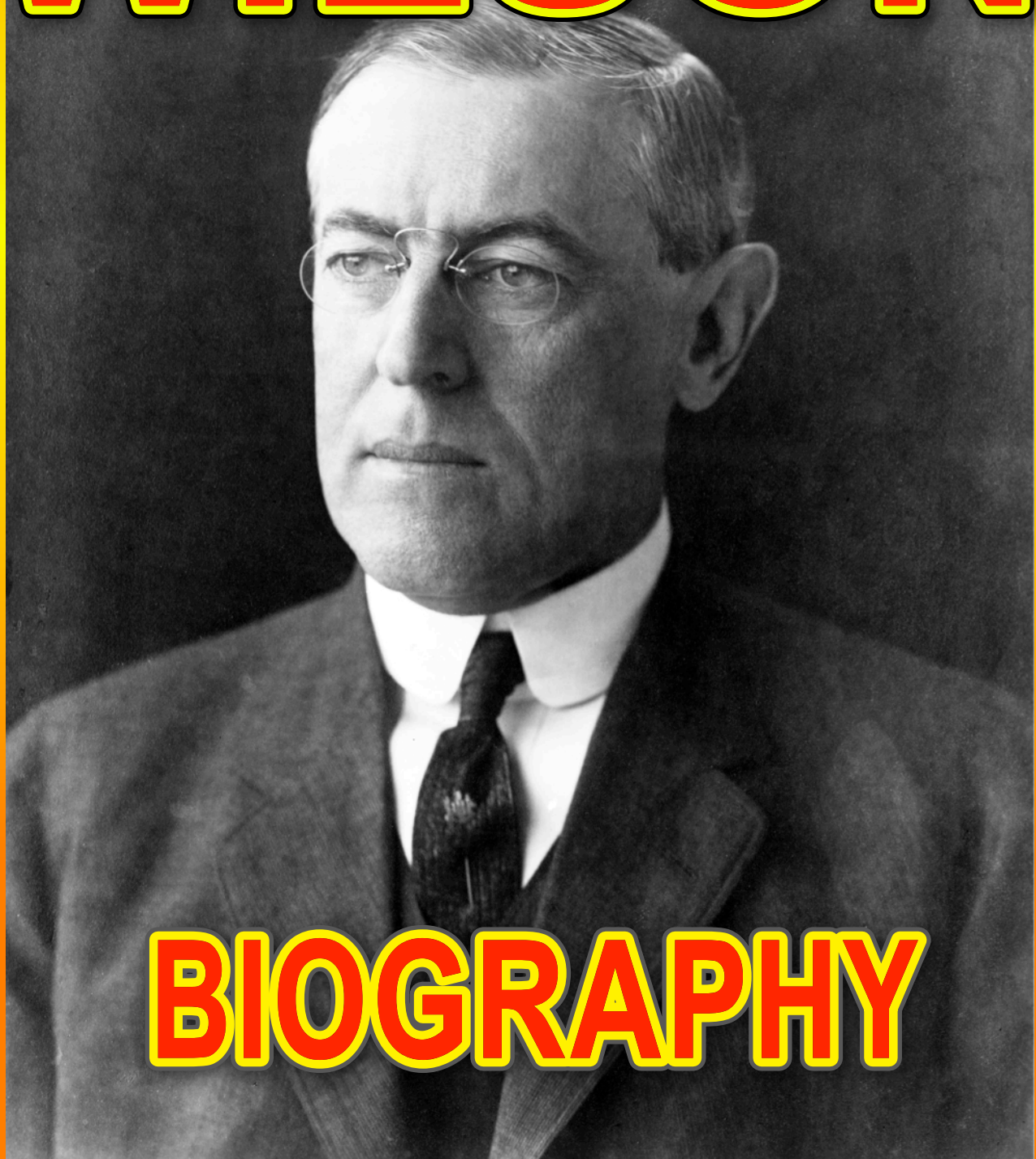


WOODROW WILSON



BIOGRAPHY

WOODROW WILSON

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born on December 28, 1856, in Staunton, Virginia, but he moved around during his childhood, and spent time in Georgia and South Carolina. Wilson was a Presbyterian with a strong moral outlook. He became President of Princeton University and then Governor of New Jersey.

While president, at the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Wilson kept America neutral for as long as he could, keeping in mind that Americans originally came from all parts of Europe and so were taking different sides. The Civil War also played on his mind.

He was re-elected in 1916 under "He kept us out of war", but he was soon forced into the war. He could not maintain neutrality when German submarines attacked American shipping. In April 1917, Wilson asked Congress to declare war in order to make "the world safe for democracy." He loaned billions of dollars to Britain, France and other Allies, making these war-weary and nearly bankrupt countries able to keep fighting.

In 1917, he began the draft and sent large numbers of 'dough boys' to help in the final battles of the war, tipping the balance in favour of the Allies after three long years of stalemate. In 1919 he went to Paris to form a League of Nations and concluded the Treaty of Versailles.

Wilson then suffered a severe stroke, which meant he could no longer continue as an effective president. Wilson was awarded the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for forming the League of Nations. Wilson died on February 3, 1924 in Washington D.C., where he had made his home.

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 'neutral'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'neutral' 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: outbreak	beginning

Sequencing

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

Wilson was re-elected because of his neutral position on the war.

Later, Wilson became president, and then World War I broke out.

After the war, Wilson helped form the League of Nations.

At first, Wilson kept America neutral in the war.

Wilson became President of Princeton University and Governor of New Jersey.

Woodrow Wilson was born in Virginia, but lived in other states when young.

But then the Germans attacked US ships, and Wilson was forced into war.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Woodrow Wilson born?

2 When did World War I start?

3 When was Wilson re-elected?

4 Where did Wilson go to form the League of Nations?

5 What was Wilson awarded in 1919?

Make a story...

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

Lost at sea

Imagine you are on an American ship that has been hit by a German submarine. The ship starts to sink, and you jump into the sea to escape... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'neutral'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'neutral' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'neutral'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'neutral'.
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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 – outbreak Synonym – beginning

Sequencing:

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

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