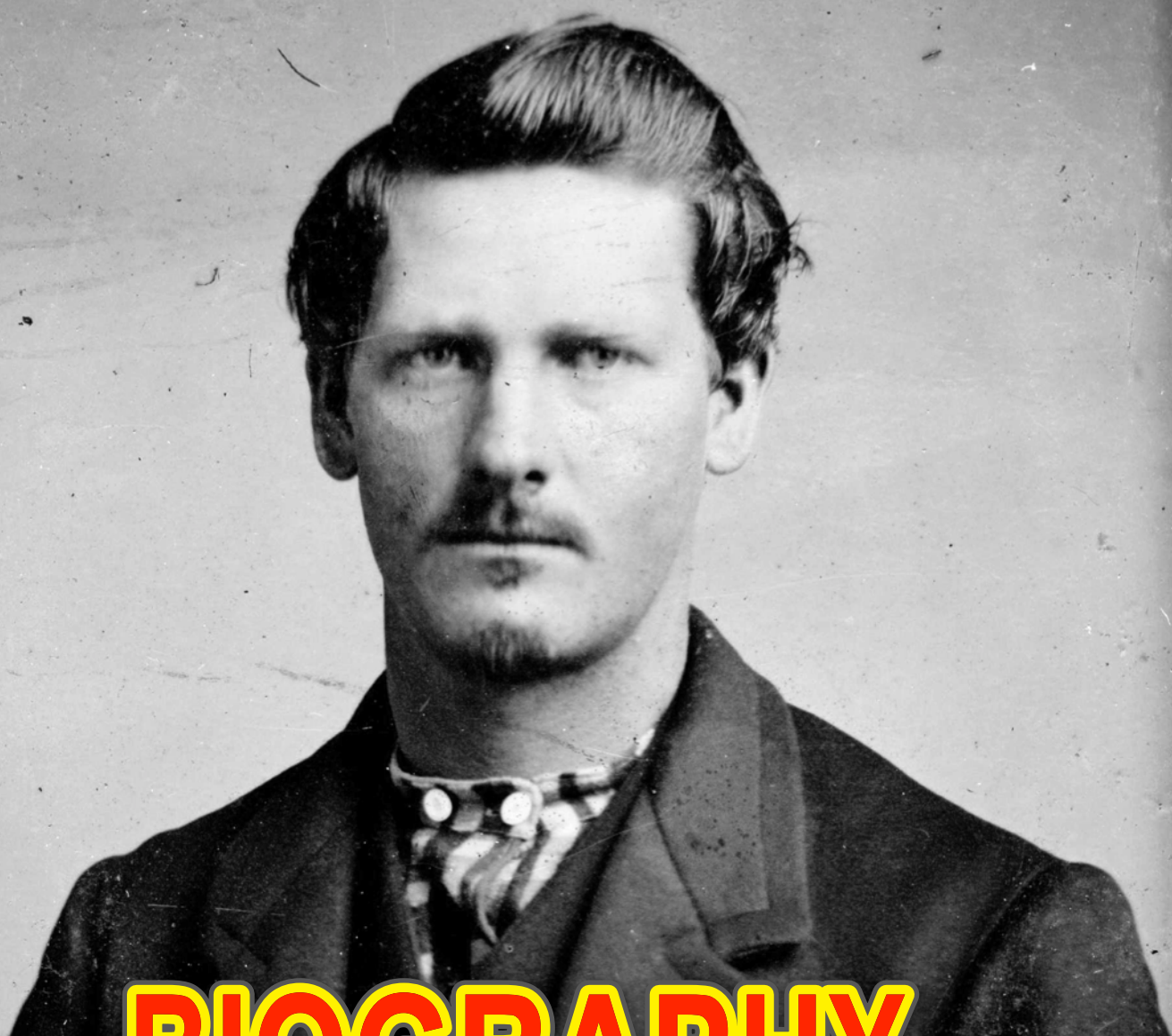


WYATT EARP



BIOGRAPHY

WYATT EARP

Wyatt Earp was born in Monmouth, Illinois on March 19, 1848. His family moved around a lot in Illinois and Iowa when he was young because his father wanted to find his fortune in the West.

When the Civil War started, Earp wanted to join the Union Army like his brothers. He tried to run away more than once, but he was caught each time. Earp worked on the Union Pacific Railroad for a time before moving to Missouri, where his family had settled. Earp became a law enforcer there, and got married.

But not long after the marriage, Earp's wife died, leaving Earp aimless for a time. He ended up in Dodge City, Kansas, where he worked in law enforcement and became friends with Doc Holliday.

In 1879, Earp, his brothers Virgil and Morgan, and Doc Holliday moved to Tombstone, Arizona. They hoped to join in the silver boom that had created the town. But such a frontier town attracted crime and cowboys, so Earp ended up working as a law enforcer again.

Earp asked for help from ranchers like Ike Clanton to track down criminals, and promised money in return. But the deal did not work out, and this led to the famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral in 1881. Clanton and his men were fighting the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday. After fierce gunfighting, only Wyatt came away without any injuries. Clanton's men were left dead.

A series of revenge attacks followed. First Virgil Earp was injured, and then Morgan Earp was killed, which led Wyatt Earp, and his friend Doc Holliday, to ride out and kill the men behind the attack. This ride is sometimes called the 'Earp Vendetta Ride'.

When these tensions had calmed down, Wyatt Earp moved around again. He spent time in boom towns like Goldfield, Nevada. He took part in the Klondike Gold Rush and set up a saloon in Nome, Alaska. Earp also tried mining and prospecting in Idaho, and speculating on real estate in San Diego, California.

Earp eventually settled in Los Angeles, where he was once again a law enforcer. At this time he was also interested in making an autobiography of his life, but it was not until after his death in 1929 that his reputation as a legendary figure of the Wild West really grew.

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 'aimless'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'aimless' 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: tensions	conflicts

Sequencing

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

Revenge attacks followed, including the Earp Vendetta Ride.

Earp became a law enforcer in Kansas, where he met Doc Holliday.

Here Earp became involved in the gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Earp eventually settled in California, where he died in 1929.

Later on Earp, his brothers and Holliday moved to Tombstone, Arizona.

Wyatt Earp was born in Illinois in 1848.

After this, Earp joined in the Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska.

Get to the facts

1 Who did Wyatt Earp become friends with in Kansas?

2 Where did Earp move to in 1879?

3 Which gunfight was Earp involved in?

4 Which gold rush did Earp take part in?

5 When did Earp die?

Make a story...

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

Trouble in town

I heard there was trouble in one of the saloons, so I picked up my gun and called over my deputy sheriff. We stepped outside...
(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'aimless'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'aimless' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'aimless'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'aimless'.
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For example:

Key word – tensions	Synonym – conflicts
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Sequencing:

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