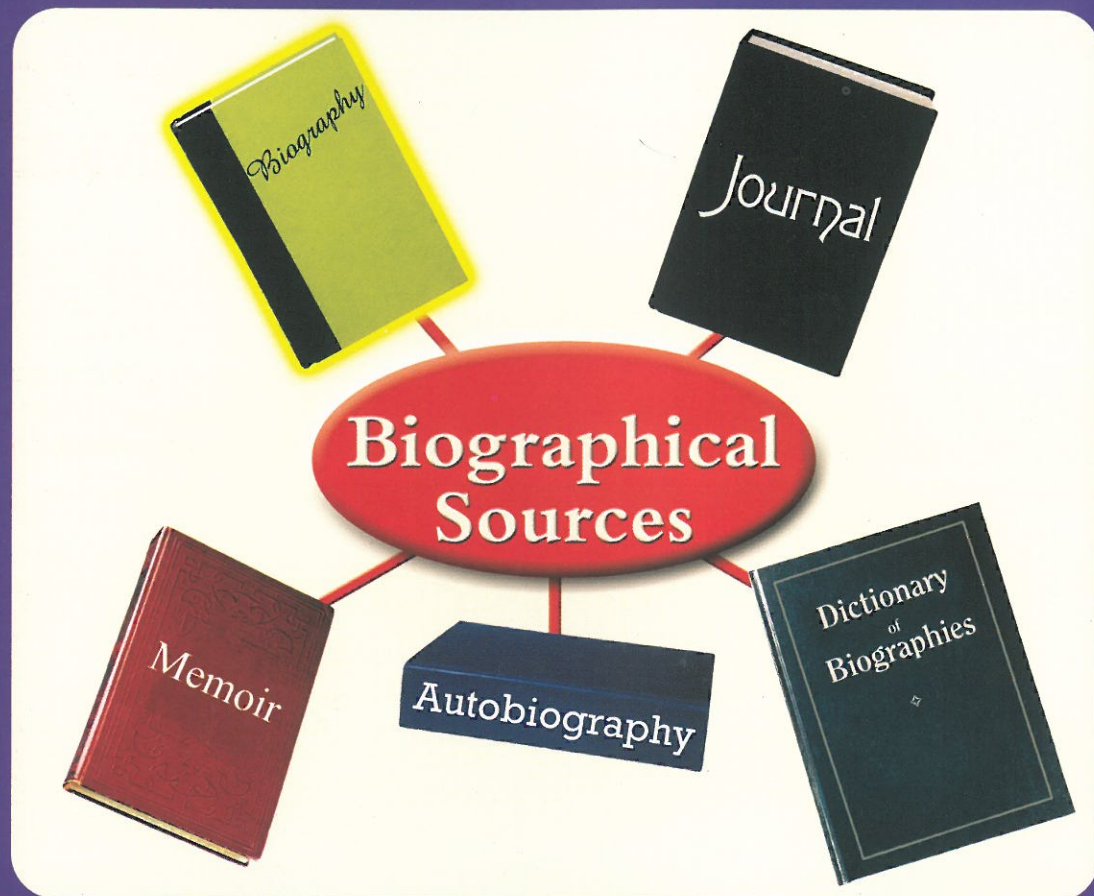


GENRE STUDY

# Biographical Sources

The purpose of **biographical sources** is to give information about people's lives.



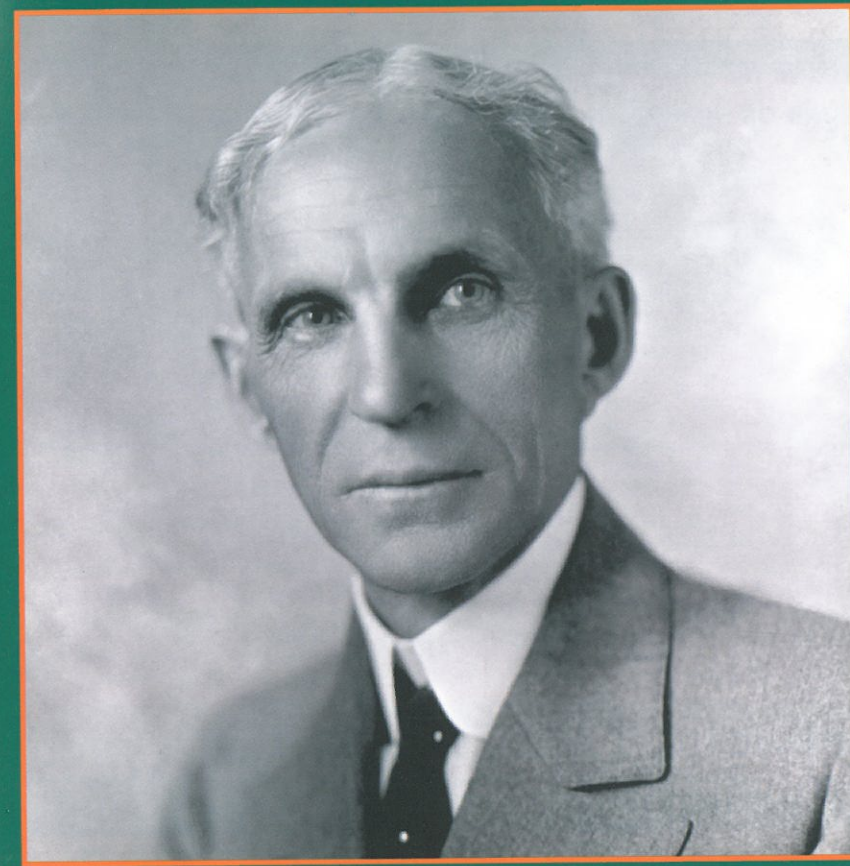
We read different biographical sources for different reasons. For example, if you want to read the story of someone's life, read a **biography**. If you want to read one person's account of his or her own life, read that person's **autobiography**. Journals and memoirs are forms of autobiographies.

# A Biography of Henry Ford

The **title** identifies the person.

1863–1947

**Dates** tell when important events occurred, such as birth and death.



Henry Ford

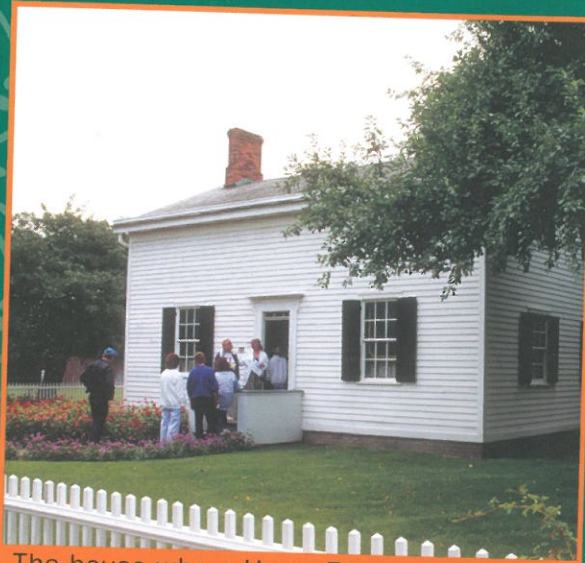
**Photographs** show the person, an event, or an important place in the person's life.

**H**enry Ford was the leading car maker in the United States in the early 1900s. He developed a way to make cars quickly and cheaply. This meant that ordinary Americans could afford to buy them. Henry was the son of Irish immigrants who came to the United States in the 1840s.

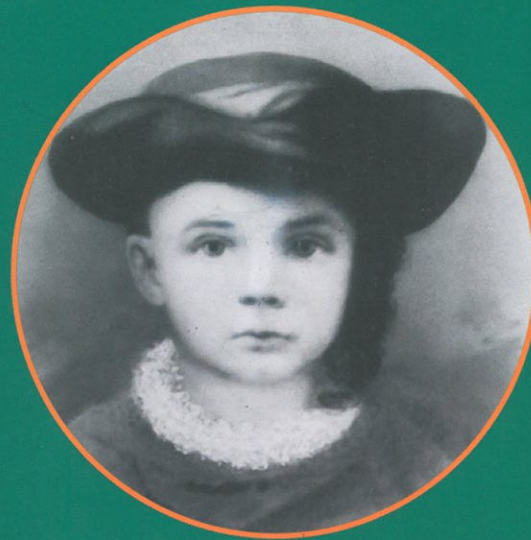
**Text** has details about the person's life.

In 1847, Henry Ford's grandparents, John and Thomasina Ford, left Ireland. They had lost the small farm they rented in County Cork. The Fords set sail for the United States with their children. Sadly, Thomasina became ill and died on board the ship.

Henry was born on July 30, 1863, on his family's farm near Dearborn, Michigan. His parents were William and Mary Ford. William was the son of John and Thomasina.



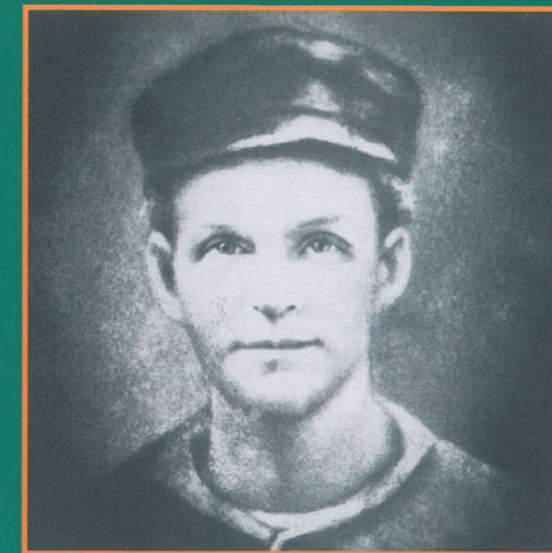
The house where Henry Ford was born in Michigan is now a museum.



Henry Ford, age two and a half

As a young boy, Henry liked to take machines apart and then put them back together. He taught himself to repair watches and clocks. His father let him repair the farm's tools. Henry did not like farm work. He could see that machines would make life easier.

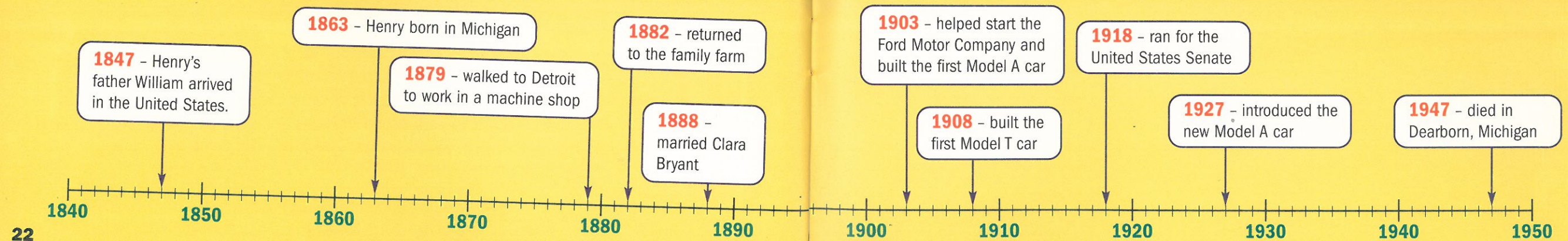
At the age of 16, Henry walked to Detroit to find work in a machine shop. There he saw an internal combustion engine for the first time. In an internal combustion engine, a mixture of air and fuel explodes inside the engine. This creates power. Henry started thinking of ideas for what such an engine could do. He decided to be an engineer. An engineer plans and builds machines.



Henry Ford, as a teenager

### Timeline of Henry Ford's Life

A **timeline** shows key events in the person's life.



After three years, Henry returned home to work on his father's farm. There he built a farm tractor. The tractor was powered by steam.

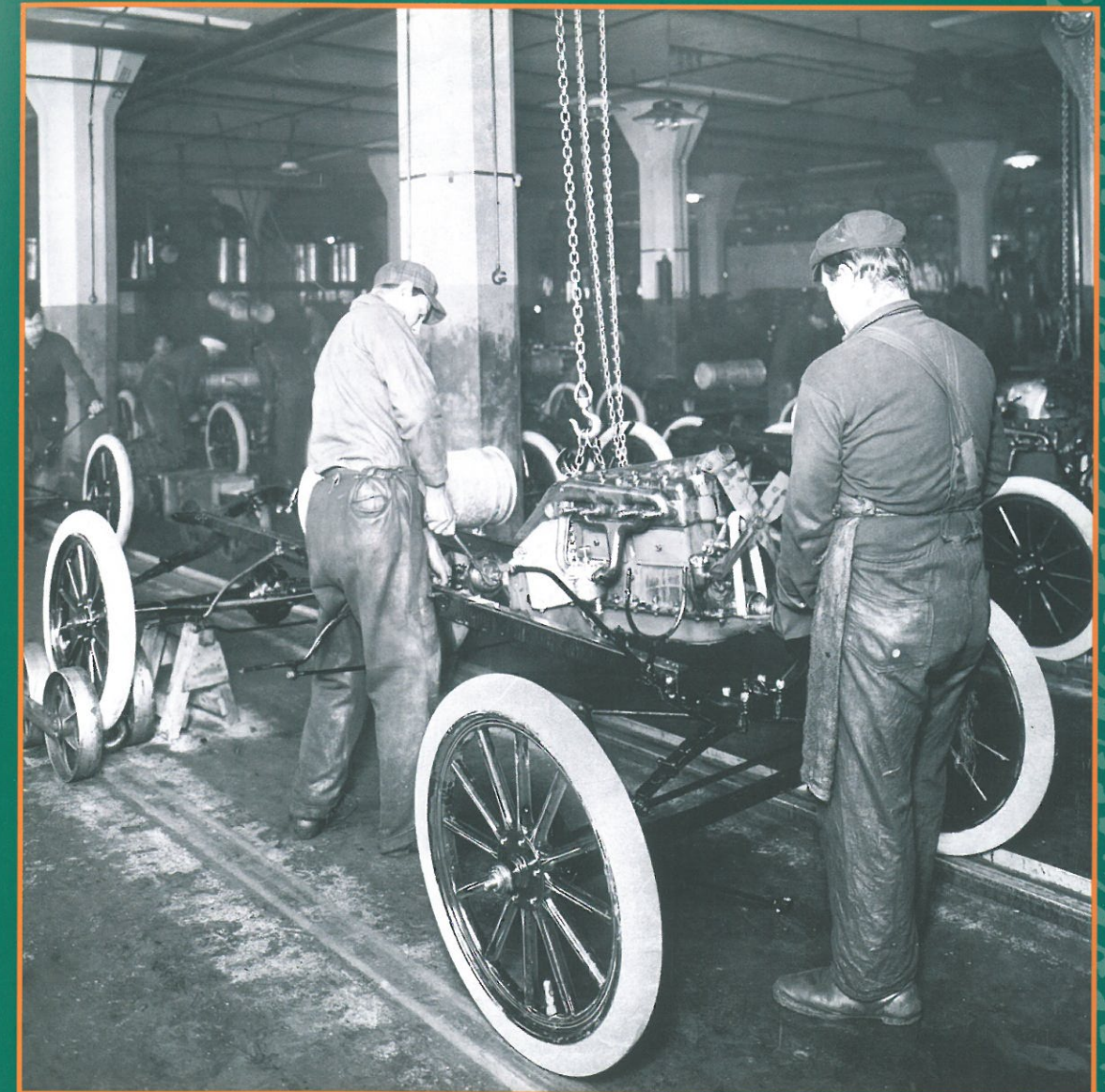
In 1888, Henry Ford married Clara Bryant. They moved back to Detroit. Henry worked for a company that supplied electric power to homes and businesses in Detroit.

However, Ford wanted to build cars. In 1903, he helped start the Ford Motor Company. In 1908, the company made the first Model T cars. Almost 17 million Model T cars were made in just 19 years.



A Ford Model T car

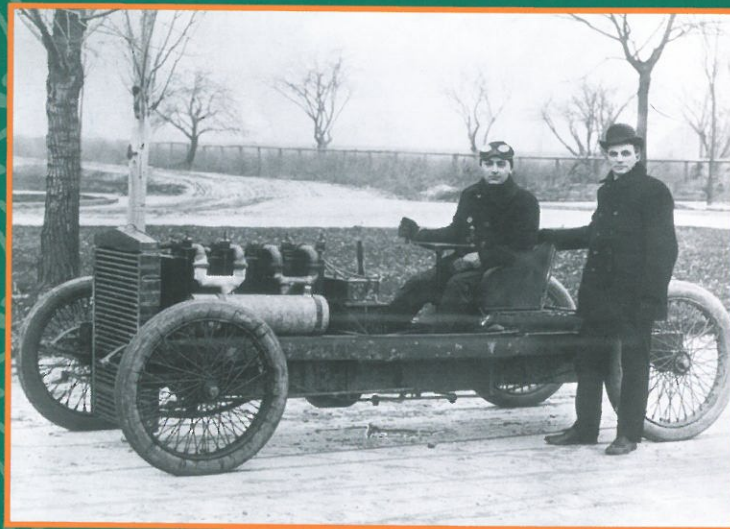
Model T cars were the first cars that ordinary people could afford. This was because of the way they were made. Henry Ford developed the moving assembly line. A moving belt would carry car parts past a line of workers or machines. Each worker would do one job. Complete cars would come out at the end of the assembly line. This way many cars could be made quickly and cheaply.



Factory workers on an assembly line at the Ford Motor Company in about 1913

Besides making cars, Henry Ford did many other things during his life. His factories made tanks, bombers, and ambulances during World War I. He ran for the United States Senate in 1918 but was not elected. He built and drove race cars to show that his car designs worked well. He also owned a newspaper and built schools.

Henry Ford died on April 7, 1947. This was 100 years after his father left Ireland.



Henry Ford standing beside one of his race cars in 1904



Henry Ford's funeral



## Apply the Key Concepts



**Key Concept 1** People choose to immigrate for many different reasons.

### Activity

Think about the reasons Irish immigrants came to the United States. Create a two-column cause and effect chart. In the first column, list the causes of problems that led the Irish to leave Ireland. In the second column, list the effect of each problem.

Cause	Effect
disease strikes potato plants	no food to eat



**Key Concept 2** People who immigrate face many challenges.

### Activity

Imagine you are an Irish immigrant who arrived in the United States in the 1800s. Write a letter to a friend who is planning to immigrate to the United States from Ireland. Explain the challenges you have faced since immigrating and offer advice to help the person know what to expect.

Dear Jack,  
I arrived in the United States one month ago...



**Key Concept 3** People who immigrate contribute to the life and culture of the society they join.

### Activity

Think of some of the contributions made by Irish immigrants. How did they help American society? Draw a word web and name the major contributions.

