



# Wild Bill Hickok

James Butler, also known as “Wild Bill” Hickok was born May 27, 1837, in Troy Grove, Illinois. His parents were William Alonzo and Polly Butler Hickok. From the time he was a little boy, he was great with a gun. He could almost always hit his targets. When he was 18 years old, Wild Bill moved west.

He had many different jobs in his life. Wild Bill Hickok worked as a **stagecoach** driver. A stagecoach was a large carriage with four wheels that was pulled by a horse and carried people from town to town. During the Civil War he worked as a spy for the North. Several times during his life, he was known for shooting and killing guys that were out to get him or others around him. One time he even won a **duel** against a man that had been his friend. A duel is when two men stand side by side and count to 3 before pulling out their guns. The first one to get their gun out and shoot wins. Stories about his great aim were told all over the land. After the Civil War, he returned to Kansas and became a lawman in his town, making sure the bad guys did not get away with doing bad things.

Some stories that were told about Wild Bill were true and some stories were not. At one time it was said that he killed a bear with his bare hands and a small knife. Another time the news reported that he shot six shots and hit the center target every single time. One thing was definitely true. He was one of the best gunslingers in the Wild West.

Later in his life, Wild Bill performed on stage in Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. He did this for two years. However, he wanted to go back to the land he loved. A few years later, he was playing a game of cards in South Dakota. It was there he was shot and killed by Jack McCall. No one ever decided why McCall killed Wild Bill. Wild Bill Hickok will always be remembered for being one of the best gunslingers and lawmen of the Wild West.