

Nansen's Youth

* Fridtjof Nansen born near Christiania (now Oslo) Norway
Oct. 10, 1861

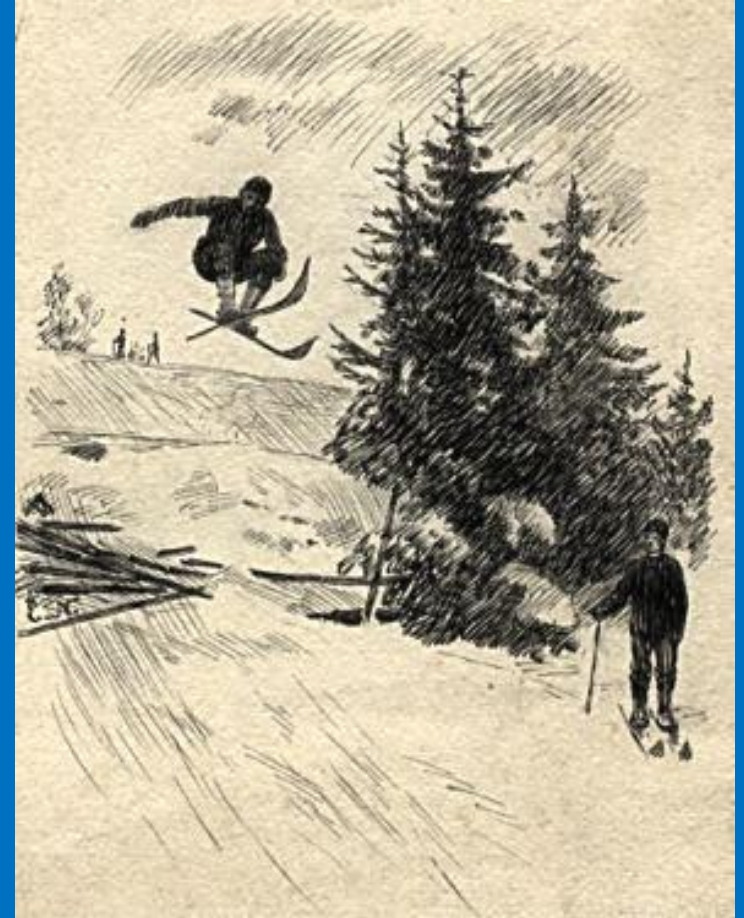
* Name Fridtjof ('peace thief') from saga of a daring Viking (8th-11th century period)

* Ancestor Hans Nansen, b. 1598, was sailor, Arctic explorer, mayor of Copenhagen

* Father: lawyer, financier; strict parent

* Mother: widow with 5 children – avid skier

* In youth, he loved the outdoors – skating, skiing, hiking, fishing



* Nansen skied across Norway to participate in a ski competition in 1884, a remarkable feat noted by Norwegians.