Ansel Adams was an American photographer born on February 20, 1902, in San Francisco, California. He is widely regarded as one of the most important photographers of the American West, and he is known for his black-and-white photographs of the natural landscapes of the United States.

Adams was born to a middle-class family and grew up in San Francisco. He attended the University of California, where he studied forestry. In 1924, he received a degree in forestry and became a forester in the U.S. Forest Service. However, Adams's passion for photography led him to leave his forestry career and focus on photography instead.

Adams's career as a photographer began in the 1930s, when he started traveling to different parts of the United States to document its natural landscapes. His photographs were characterized by their sharp focus, high contrast, and deep blacks and whites. Adams believed that photography should be a form of art, and he worked to perfect his craft by studying the works of other photographers, such as Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Weston.

Adams's photographs were highly praised, and he received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. He was a member of the Group f/64, a group of photographers who were committed to achieving high contrast and sharp focus in their work. Adams was also a founder of the Ansel Adams Gallery, which was established in 1949 to promote and sell his photographs.

In addition to his photography, Adams was also a nature activist. He believed that photography could be used as a tool to promote environmental conservation, and he worked to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural landscapes. He was a member of the Sierra Club, and he used his photographs to help raise money for the group.

Adams died on April 22, 1984, in Carmel, California. He was 82 years old. Since his death, his photographs have continued to be widely exhibited and sold, and his legacy as a photographer and environmental activist continues to inspire new generations of artists and activists.