



Learning with Lincoln Institute

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Abraham Lincoln Cultivating Character: from Farmer to American Icon

by Sharon Wright

Students explore and analyze primary source images and documents, peer interviews and Lincoln realia to create a collection of Readers' Response projects.

Each project will include a written analysis containing a title page, a diorama of an event from Lincoln's life, and a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting their personal experiences with events from Lincoln's youth. Primary sources offer a glimpse at a particular time or event that may show a unique perspective.



Overview

- Subject:** Social Studies/U.S. History/ Language Arts
- Time Required:** Five 40 minute class periods,
Two 40 minute computer lab sessions
- Grade Range:** 5-8
- Understanding Goal:** How can primary sources help us make a personal connection to events from Lincoln's early life?
- Investigative or Essential Question:** How can primary sources help us make a personal connection to events from Lincoln's early life?



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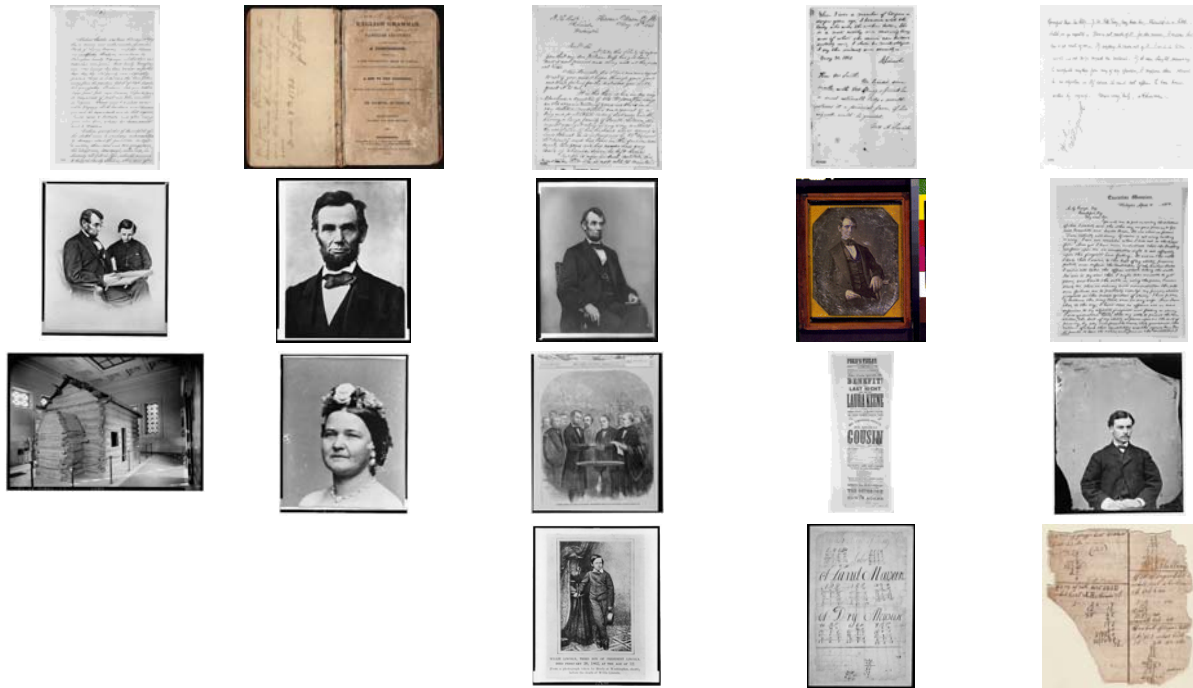
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Materials

Purpose of Library of Congress Items: The primary sources help students broaden their perspectives gather insights and make personal connections about formative events in Lincoln’s life.


Library of Congress Items: Bibliographical Information attached.



Additional Materials:

 Project Overview (attached)

 Venn Diagram Form (attached)

 Diorama Rubric (attached)



<http://images.virtualology.com/images/918.jpg>

 Cultivating Character PowerPoint (attached)



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Required Vocabulary: Compare/contrast, cultivate, character, icon, Venn diagram, vocabulary relevant to content areas (Social Studies, History)

Prior Content Knowledge: In addition to knowledge of how to analyze primary sources, students will need to know a general knowledge of Abraham Lincoln and his impact on the American experience. (President, assassinated, emancipation of slaves, Civil War, penny)

Technology Skills: Basic computer skills and internet searching skills.

Standards

Illinois Learning Standards: 1
2
3
4
5
16
17
18
26

For information on specific Illinois Learning Standards go to www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/

Actions

Description of Teacher Actions:

Activating Prior Knowledge or Anticipatory Set

1. Create a semantic web about Abraham Lincoln on the white board.
2. Model how topics can be organized into categories.
3. Discuss analysis of primary sources.
4. Preview the Reader's Response Project activities.

Student Investigative Activities

1. Read and analyze the formative events from Abe Lincoln's life. Select and print a slide or slides for the Response Project.
2. The slides include images of letters, written materials, and interviews and Lincoln realia.



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3. Discuss the implications of the slides on a personal level. This uses a Venn diagram to model teacher connection to one of the events. Model / discuss how the personal connection can be translated into a collection of learning projects.
1. Write an essay (narrative, expository, or persuasive style) responding to one or more of the Power Point slides. This includes a title page.
2. Create a Venn diagram comparing his/her own life to one or more events from Lincoln's early years.
3. Create a diorama depicting a scene from Lincoln's formative years.
4. Present the collections of learning projects to peers

Best Instructional Practices:

Teaching for Understanding

Students create a diorama about an event from Lincoln's life they confirmed and revealed their understanding of the content.

Differentiated Instruction

Writing in response to a slide (or slides), students discovered a personal connection to Abraham Lincoln.

Technology Integration

Students access presentation using computer literacy skills of accessing information and selecting page to print for reference.

Literacy Instruction

Presenting Reader's Response projects to peers allows students to practice oral presentation skills. Creating a Venn Diagram required students to read for information, make judgments, and draw conclusions. Students access and investigate "Cultivating Character" to read for information, make judgments, and draw conclusions










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Attachments

Library of Congress Resources








Title: Abraham Lincoln: President-elect		
	Collection or Exhibit	Prints and Photographs
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL:	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?pp/ils:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a18217))+@field(COLLID+cph))
Title: Abraham Lincoln, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front		
	Collection or Exhibit	Prints and Photographs
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL:	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?pp/ils:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a14822))+@field(COLLID+dag))
Title: Abraham Lincoln to Jesse W. Fell, Tuesday, December 20, 1859		
	Collection or Exhibit	Abraham Lincoln Papers
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text
	URL:	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=mal&fileName=mal1/021/0216600/malpage.db&recNum=0
Title: English Grammar in Familiar Lectures		
	Collection or Exhibit	Exhibits
	Media Type:	Published Text
	URL	http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/at0107_8s.jpg
Title: Abraham Lincoln, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing front		
	Collection or Exhibit	By Popular Demand: Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, 1789-Present
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a53289))
Title: Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, full-length portrait, standing, facing left, near table		
	Collection or Exhibit	By Popular Demand: Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, 1789-Present
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a08038))
Title: A photograph of the President and Thomas (Tad) made by Mathew B. Brady		
	Collection or Exhibit	By Popular Demand: Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, 1789-Present
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a14279))



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Title: Abraham Lincoln, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing right		
	Collection or Exhibit	By Popular Demand: Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, 1789-Present
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ppmsc+00052))
Title: Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln to Caleb B. Smith, Friday, May 31, 1861		
	Collection or Exhibit	Lincoln Papers
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal3/434/4343900/malpage.db&recNum=0
Title: Willie Lincoln, third son of President Lincoln. Died February 20, 1862 at the age of 3		
	Collection or Exhibit	Prints and Photographs
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?pp/ils:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3c11451))+@field(COLLID+cph))
Title: Lincoln taking the oath at his second inauguration, March 4, 1865		
	Collection or Exhibit	I Do Solemnly Swear Presidential Inaugurations
	Media Type:	Image
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/pin:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a06250))
Title: Page of Abraham Lincoln's student sum book, ca. 1824-26		
	Collection or Exhibit	Words and Deeds in American History
	Media Type:	Published Text
	URL	http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field(DOCID+@lit(mcc/022))
Title: The Ford Theatre Lincoln assassination play-bill, Friday evening April 14, 1865		
	Collection or Exhibit	An American Time Capsule
	Media Type:	Published Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/rbpebib:@field(NUMBER+@band(rbpe+2040580a))
Title: Abraham Lincoln birthplace, Hodgenville, Larue County, KY		
	Collection or Exhibit	Built in America
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(KY0095))



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Title:	Page from Abraham Lincoln's sum book	
	Collection or Exhibit	First American West: The Ohio River Valley 1750-1820
	Media Type:	Published Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fawbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(bmc0217))
Title:	Robert Lincoln	
	Collection or Exhibit	Prints and Photographs
	Media Type:	Photo
	URL	http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/i?pp/brhc:@field(NUMBER+@band(cwpbh+04802)):displayType=1:m856sd=cwpbh:m856sf=04802
Title:	Abraham Lincoln, (May-June 1860) (Autobiographical Notes; copy in hand of John G. Nicolay	
	Collection or Exhibit	Abraham Lincoln Papers
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/032/0323000/malpage.db&recNum=0
Title:	Hannah Armstong to Abraham Lincoln, Thursday, May 19, 1864	
	Collection or Exhibit	Abraham Lincoln Papers
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/331/3316400/malpage.db&recNum=0
Title:	Abraham Lincoln to Albert G. Hodges, Monday, April 04, 1864(Lincoln's position on slavery)	
	Collection or Exhibit	Abraham Lincoln Papers
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/320/3207700/malpage.db&recNum=0



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Abraham Lincoln Project

After viewing a PowerPoint themed, "Cultivating Character: From Farmer to American Icon," you will need to create a collection of Reader's Responses.

1. Print off one or more of the Power Point slides that you think will best direct your activities.
2. Make a Venn Diagram to Compare (what you have in common) and Contrast (what is different) between your life and Abraham Lincoln's. Be sure to get two copies of the Venn diagram paper. Use one for your rough draft, and the second one for your Final Copy.
(10 POINTS)
3. Design and construct a Diorama to explain one of the important events from Abraham Lincoln's life. Be sure to follow the diorama directions carefully. Include a well-planned scene, the title, and the caption card that explains the scene and why you chose it.
(40 POINTS)
4. Write an Essay that tells what you have learned about Abraham Lincoln. You may choose what style of writing from the following:
 - expository (facts about his early life)
 - narrative (a story about one or two events)
 - persuasive (explains which event was most important)

If you have another great idea, make sure you check with me to get my approval.

Be creative! This is your chance to impress me with what you have learned!
(50 POINTS)

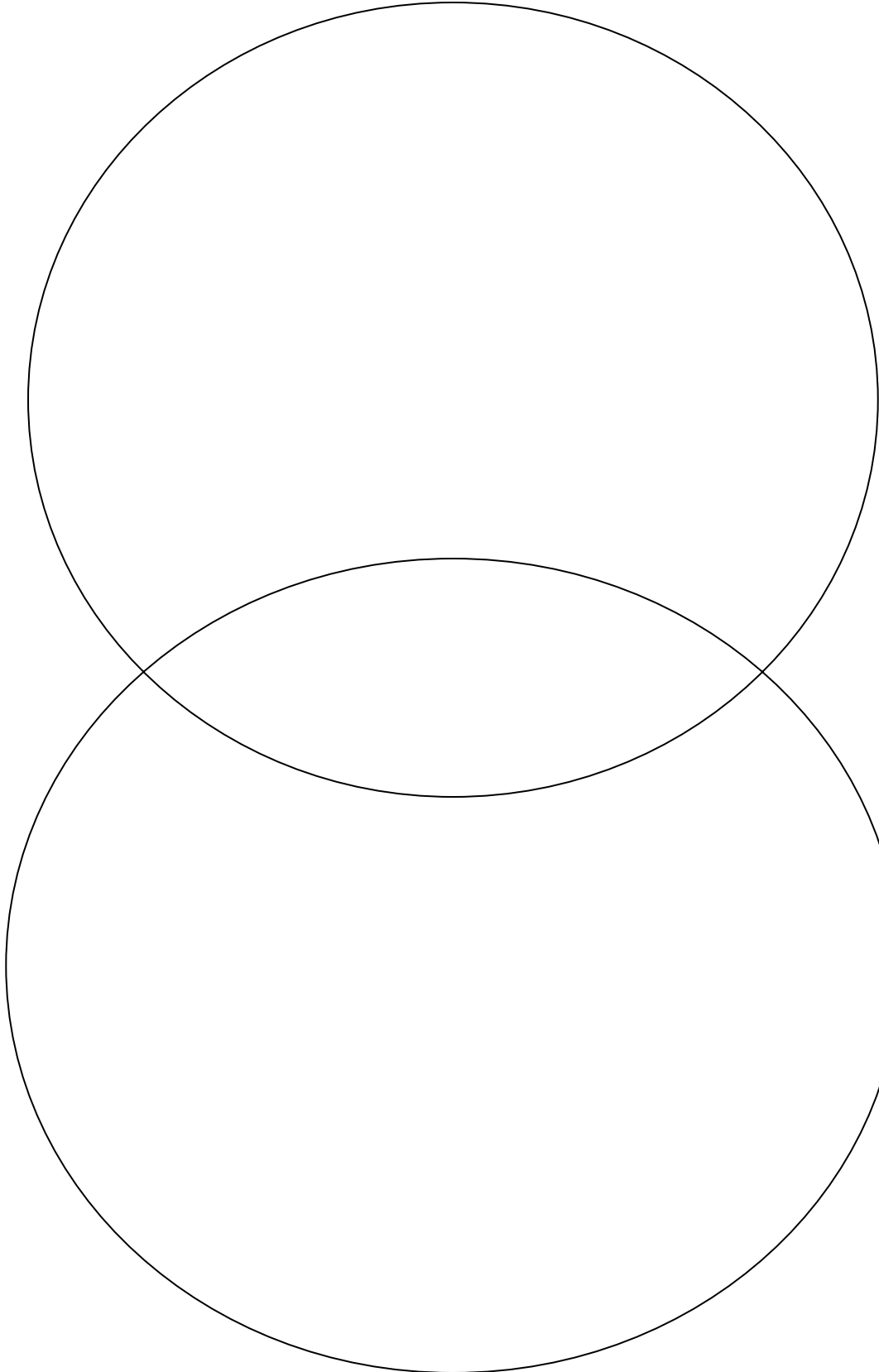
Venn diagram	10 points
Diorama	40 points
Essay	50 points
TOTAL	100 points



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Abraham Lincoln



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Diorama Project

A diorama is a three dimensional scene from a book, play, or other source. It is easiest to use a small box such as a shoe box or cereal box.

First, select your scene and plan it out on a piece of paper. Make sure you remember to include all of the required elements, including the background and caption/explanation card.

Second, begin making articles for your scene. These may be hand drawn/made, pictures from magazines, computer generated, or any other appropriate model. Keep in mind that the articles must be close to scale, the correct size compared to the rest of the scene. Your diorama will not look right if the shoe is bigger than the tree it is next to!

Third, begin decorating the scene. Glue in the appropriate background, and then arrange the other items for the best look. When you are happy with the placement of the items, glue them carefully in place.

Last, complete a final copy caption card that tells the title of your scene and explains why that scene is important to your project. You might even tell why you chose that particular scene. Be sure to attach the caption card carefully to the outside of the box where your audience is sure to see it.

BONUS POINTS can be earned by appropriately decorating the outside of the box.

DIORAMA RUBRIC			
Possible score →	10 points	5 points	0 points
Required elements↓			
Background scenery appropriate to time period	All scenery fits time period	Some scenery fits time period, some out of sync	No scenery evident; Scene does not fit time period
Models/items explain the selected event	5 or more items/models to represent the scene	1-4 items/models to represent the scene	No items/models evident
Caption card tells title and explains the scene	Caption card tells title, explains the importance of the scene; correct conventions	Incomplete description of scene; does not explain importance of the event; many errors in conventions	No caption card present
Neatness evident with an attractive design	Items in scale with neat, attractive design	Some items out of scale; neatness not to grade level	Poorly constructed, sloppy work not to ability




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PowerPoint

1



Cultivating Character

From Farmer to American Icon

2

What it means

Cultivate - to make grow; to groom; to make something or someone improve; to strengthen or make stronger

Character -the condition where good values are shown; having strong morals; to show deep belief in doing what is right

Icon -a person who becomes a symbol; one who sets the standard of behavior; famous person throughout the world

3

Abraham Lincoln

was born into a poor family in Kentucky, but became one of the most famous figures in American history. Abraham Lincoln lived through much difficulty, but overcame all odds to have influence over the entire world.

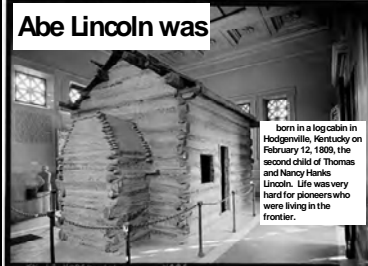
We know him as a famous person who:

1. Became President of the United States.
2. Emancipated (freed) many of the slaves in America.
3. Was famous for being honest.
4. Fought to keep the United States together during the Civil War.
5. Was assassinated in a theatre.
6. Can be seen on the U.S. penny.

But what events in his life formed his character?
What things made him the great man he was?
Are there events from his past that give us a glimpse of who Abraham Lincoln was as a person?

4

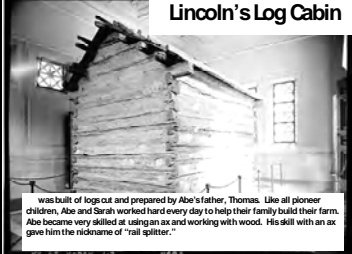
Abe Lincoln was



born in a logcabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky on February 12, 1809, the second child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Life was very hard for pioneers who were living in the frontier.

5

Lincoln's Log Cabin



was built of logs cut and prepared by Abe's father, Thomas. Like all pioneer children, Abe and Sarah worked hard every day to help their family build their farm. Abe became very skilled at using an ax and working with wood. His skill with an ax gave him the nickname of "rail splitter."

6

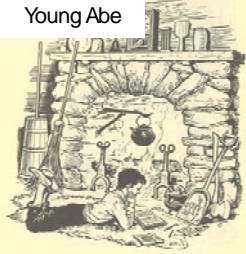
The Interior



was mainly one room with a loft area for sleeping. All of the family activities such as cooking, washing, and preparing yarn on the Spinning, Arny happened there. On Sundays Abe and his sister Sarah read the Bible out loud to their parents.

7

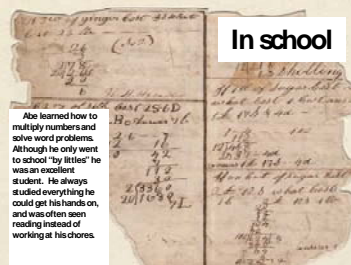
Young Abe



was very seldom in school and taught himself to read and write. Often he would read by the light of the fire and practice writing. When he had no pencil and paper, Abe completed his work with charcoal and a flat shovel.

8

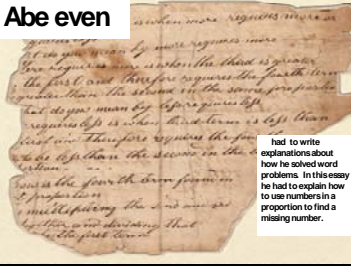
In school



Abe learned how to multiply numbers and solve word problems. Although he only went to school "by letters" he was an excellent student. He always studied everything he could get his hands on, and was often seen reading instead of working at his chores.

9

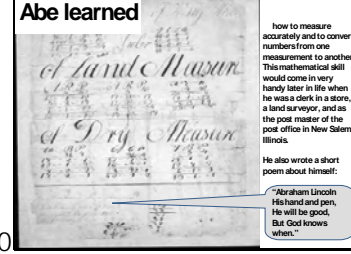
Abe even



had to write explanations about how he solved word problems. In his essay he had to explain how to use numbers in a proportion to find a missing number.

10

Abe learned



how to measure accurately and to convert numbers from one measurement to another. This mathematical skill would come in very handy later in life when he was a clerk in a store, a land surveyor, and as the post master of the post office in New Salem, Illinois.

He also wrote a short poem about himself:

"Abraham Lincoln
His hand and pen,
He will be good,
But God knows when."



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11

Many neighbors

were illiterate, not able to read or write, so Abe kindly helped them by writing letters for them or by reading their mail to them.


"There were some schools, so called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond the reading, writing, and cipherin' in the Rule of Three - if a stranger happened to understand Latin, happened to be a good lawyer in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard."



16

In the Winter of Big Snow

many pioneer families froze or starved to death during the Winter of 1830-1831. Abe's family had moved to central Illinois, and like other Illinois families were snowbound for weeks. Abe had to trudge through deep drifts to get food for his family. When he fell through the ice, his feet almost froze before he got to a neighbor's. They saved his feet from frostbite, so he was able to return home with the needed supplies.




12

Young Abraham

showed kindness for stranger too. Once he helped a traveling soldier by giving him food.

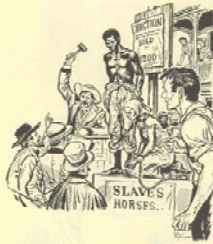
"I had been fishing one day and caught a little fish which I was taking home. I met a soldier on the road, and, having been always told at home that we must be kind to soldiers, I gave him my fish."



17

Lincoln traveled


down the Mississippi River on a flat boat to sell the owner's goods at market. In New Orleans he saw a slave auction. Later he wrote a friend, "If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong."



13

When Abe was 9

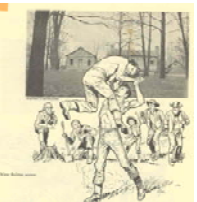
his mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln died of the milk sickness. Because it was a drought year, there was very little food for the farm animals. The cows were foraging in the fields and had eaten leaves of the white snake root plant. The poison in the plant got into the milk and made Nancy die at a young age. Abe and his sister Sarah were devastated by their loss.



18

As a young man

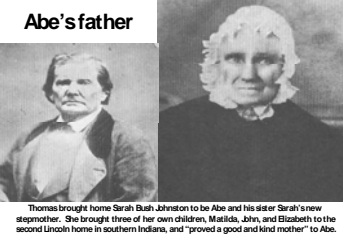
Abe moved to New Salem, Illinois. He was very popular among the townspeople, and was well known for telling humorous stories. One time when he was a clerk in Denton Offutt's store, a gang of men known as the Clay's Grove boys came and challenged Abe to fight. Their leader, Jack Armstrong could not "whip" Abe unless the rest of the gang helped him. Abe earned their respect for being such a strong wrestler. Armstrong and Abe became lifelong friends.



14

Abe's father

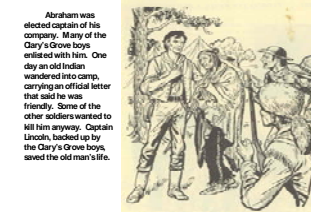
Thomas brought home Sarah Bush Johnston to be Abe and his sister Sarah's new stepmother. She brought three of her own children, Matilda, John, and Elizabeth to the second Lincoln home in southern Indiana, and "proved a good and kind mother" to Abe.



19

During the Blackhawk War


Abraham was elected captain of his company. Many of the Clay's Grove boys enlisted with him. One day an old Indian wandered into camp, carrying an official letter that said he was friendly. Some of the other soldiers wanted to kill him anyway. Captain Lincoln, backed up by the Clay's Grove boys, saved the old man's life.



15

Honest Abe

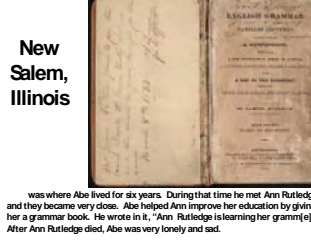
always tried to do the right thing. Once he borrowed a book, *The Life of George Washington*, from his neighbor, Josiah Crawford. It was accidentally damaged by rain, so Abe volunteered to work for free to repay his neighbor. Abe worked for three days in Josiah's cornfield, then got to keep the book for himself.



20

New Salem, Illinois

was where Abe lived for six years. During that time he met Ann Rutledge and they became very close. Abe helped Ann improve her education by giving her a grammar book. He wrote in it, "Ann Rutledge is learning her grammar." After Ann Rutledge died, Abe was very lonely and sad.





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21

Abe read every book he could find.

He studied Blackstone's Commentaries to learn about being a lawyer. Abe also read plays by Shakespeare, books about surveying and law, and continued learning about grammar. Abe read fictional novels such as Robinson Crusoe, read from the Bible, and enjoyed Aesop's Fables. Some historians believe that the idea for Abe's famous "House Divided" speech was from the Book of Genesis or from a fable called, "The Lion and Four Bulls."



26

Abe and Mary

had four sons, three of whom died in childhood. Only Robert lived to adulthood. Abe and Mary were both distraught over their children's deaths, but still kept moving forward. Some of the most difficult decisions Abe had to make while in office came while he was mourning the death of one of his children.



Robert Lincoln



Edward "Eddie" Lincoln



Abe with Thomas "Tad" Lincoln

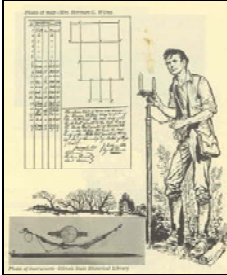


William "Willie" Lincoln

22

Measurement skills

he learned as a young man helped Abe when he worked as a land surveyor near New Salem, Illinois. Abe became respected for his honesty and accuracy.



27

Abe became famous

all over the world when he became our President. He symbolized a part of the American dream that even the son of a simple farmer could, through hard work and perseverance, make something of himself. His sensible approach to pressing topics of the day, his sense of humor, and his easy-going storytelling endeared Abe to many people.



23

Studying law books

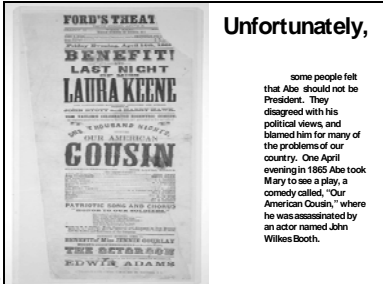
finally paid off, and Abraham earned his license to practice law. He moved to Springfield, Illinois where he became a circuit rider. Every spring and fall Abraham would travel around several counties to assist pioneers who needed his legal services. When he was alone, he often read a book as his horse pulled the buggy to his next stop.



28

Unfortunately,

some people felt that Abe should not be President. They disagreed with his political views and blamed him for many of the problems of our country. One April evening in 1865 Abe took Mary to see a play, a comedy called, "Our American Cousin," where he was assassinated by an actor named John Wilkes Booth.

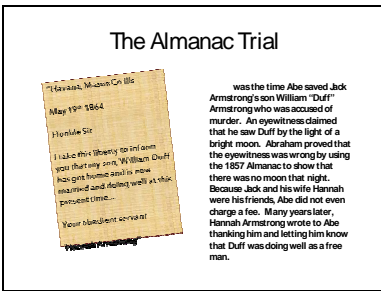


24

The Almanac Trial

was the time Abe saved Jack Armstrong's son William "Duff" Armstrong who was accused of murder. An eyewitness claimed that he saw Duff by the light of a bright moon. Abraham proved that the eyewitness was wrong by using the 1857 Almanac to show that there was no moon that night. Because Jack and his wife Hannah were his friends, Abe did not even charge a fee. Many years later, Hannah Armstrong wrote to Abe thanking him and letting him know that Duff was doing well as a free man.

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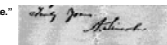
29

Abraham Lincoln



was the 16th President of the United States of America during the Civil War. He fought to keep our nation together, and emancipated, or freed the slaves. He overcame all odds, including educating himself, so he could reach his goals. He is famous for many things, and a glimpse into his childhood shows that he was destined for greatness.

"Whatever you are, be a good one."



25

Mary Todd Lincoln

met Abraham in Springfield, and became his wife. Soon afterwards Abraham decided to run for a political office. Although he lost the Senate race to Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham became famous for his speaking ability. He became well-known for speaking the truth in a calm, common sense manner. This reputation helped him get elected as President of the United States in 1860.



Mary Todd Lincoln



Lincoln being sworn into office

30

Abraham Lincoln

begin life as a child of the frontier. His experiences while growing up made him into a strong, much admired person.

Because Abraham Lincoln is known the world over, he is considered an American icon. He is a symbol of the great things about our country. He is a reminder that anyone can become famous, or important to their times, by working towards their goals.

Points to Ponder

What events in Abe's life changed / affected his perspective? Are there lessons he learned as a young man that he used as an adult?

Compare and contrast your experiences with one or more of Abe's. What things do you have in common? What things are different?