

LINCOLN'S LIFE—EXPERIENCES AND TRAVELS

OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students will study the places and events important in the life of Abraham Lincoln. A brief PowerPoint will be used as an introduction to his travels before students read and take notes about him and his life in a variety of books and on the Internet. The final project is a presentation using a student-created PowerPoint about Lincoln when he lived in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, or Washington, D.C.

GRADE LEVEL

Created for grades 3-5, but easily adapted to grades 6-8 with modification of resources made available to students.

TIME NEEDED

The lesson from start to finish will take from two to three weeks, depending on the length of the class period used (30- 45 minutes) and how much of the research is done outside of class. Less time could be needed if the teacher supplies hard copies of information for each group to read rather than allowing students to research their topic. Creating a presentation will take approximately one week if students have prior experience using PowerPoint. Plans should include one or two additional class periods for students to give their presentations.

ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS

Social Studies

STATE GOAL 16: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

- A. Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation.
- B. Understand the development of significant political events.
- E. Understand Illinois, United States and world environmental history.

STATE GOAL 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.

- A. Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on the Earth.
- B. Analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of the Earth's physical systems.
- C. Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.
- D. Understand the historical significance of geography.

STATE GOAL 18: Understand social systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

- B. Understand the roles and interactions of individuals and groups in society.

English Language Arts

STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.

- A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.
- B. Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency.
- C. Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.

STATE GOAL 3: Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.

- A. Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization and structure.

- B. Compose well-organized and coherent writing for specific purposes and audiences.
 - C. Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes.
- STATE GOAL 4: Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations.
- A. Listen effectively in formal and informal situations.
 - B. Speak effectively using language appropriate to the situation and audience.
- STATE GOAL 5: Use the language arts to acquire, assess and communicate information.
- A. Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.
 - B. Analyze and evaluate information acquired from various sources.
 - C. Apply acquired information, concepts and ideas to communicate in a variety of formats.

OBJECTIVES

The student will-

- learn where Abraham Lincoln lived and events in his life.
- utilize research techniques to find information.
- create a PowerPoint presentation about the information learned.
- present his/her multimedia presentation to the rest of the fourth grade.

MATERIALS

Teacher

- Computer with projection unit
- [Presentation direction sheet](#)
- [Research note sheet](#)
- [Storyboard template](#)
- [PowerPoint template](#)
- [Rubrics \(for PowerPoint presentation and peer assessment\) and scoring sheet](#)
- [Expected Group Behaviors sheet](#)

Student

- Pencil
- Paper
- Clipboard
- Computer with internet access
- [Books on Abraham Lincoln and his life](#)

Visuals

- [PowerPoint presentation of the places where Lincoln lived](#)

ADVANCED PREPARATION

1. Photocopy presentation guideline worksheet, research note template, and storyboard template for each student.
2. Enlarge a partial map of the United States showing clearly the locations where Lincoln lived (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C.). This may be

- done by making a transparency of the United States and using an overhead projector to enlarge the area needed.
3. Schedule computer lab time.
 4. Gather books on Abraham Lincoln on a variety of reading levels.

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITY

1. Using a brainstorming session, students will share what they know about Abraham Lincoln.
2. The teacher will show a PowerPoint presentation to show the location of various places where Abraham Lincoln lived.
3. Explain to students what they will do, using the guideline worksheet.

PROCEDURES

1. Distribute the research note template, explaining students are to fill in as much information as they can find during their time researching using Internet and printed materials.
2. Assign student groups the location they are to research. Students must know where this location is in the United States and be able to place a sticky dot on the map in the classroom to indicate where your location is found.
3. Give students ample time to conduct their research and fill in the note template, assisting as needed to help students find what they need to complete the project. Approximately five 30-45 minute class periods should be allowed for this purpose. Research may also be done outside of class, if desired.
4. Students use the information from their notes to complete the storyboard worksheet for each slide of their presentation. Be sure students understand that the slide will not include everything that will be said in the presentation. They will also need to include in the lower box the extra information they will present. Approving each group's storyboard before the group begins the actual presentation is beneficial.
5. Students create their PowerPoint presentation using their storyboards as their guide. If they do not have prior experience using PowerPoint, model how to use the program. This may be done by having students do a slide or two while you give step-by-step instructions for using the most common PowerPoint tools. This may be done with students creating their first presentation slide during the modeling exercise.
6. Students revise/edit their presentation.
7. Each group should practice giving their presentation, making sure that all students participate equally. Each group must know where to place the sticky dot on the map at the start of the presentation to give the audience a visual of this location. They also need to encourage all group members to speak loudly, slowly, and clearly as they practice to prepare for the actual presentation.

CONCLUDING THE LESSON

1. Students give their presentation. The students in the audience complete a peer assessment for each other group's presentation.

2. After all presentations have been made, conduct a discussion of what was learned, using the location PowerPoint as students share information learned about Lincoln and each location where he lived.

ASSESSING THE ACTIVITY

1. Use a rubric to assess the PowerPoint presentation.
2. Include the average scores on the peer assessment rubric when completing the scoring sheet.

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY

Any of the following activities may be used as an extension of the lesson.

1. Write a poem about an event or place in Lincoln's life.
2. Memorize the Gettysburg Address.
3. Create an ABC book of Abraham Lincoln's life with each student creating one page.
4. Make a quilt square representative of an important event in your presentation.
5. Write a sympathy card to Mary Todd Lincoln to express condolences on the death of her husband.
6. Perform "Abraham Lincoln—A Boy Who Became President" play.
7. Watch video(s) on Abraham Lincoln and his life. If using UnitedStreaming videos, the Teacher's Guide and Blackline Masters offer additional activities and discussion questions.

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Abraham Lincoln lived in these places at the given times.

- 1809-1816—Hodgenville, Kentucky, on Knob Creek
- Dec. 1816-March 1, 1830—near Little Pigeon Creek, Indiana
- March 15, 1830-March , 1831—Macon County, Illinois, near Decatur
- April 1831-July 1831—travel to and from New Orleans, Louisiana (not a permanent home)
- July 1831-April 15, 1837—New Salem, Illinois
- April 15, 1837-February 11, 1861—Springfield, Illinois
- February 23, 1861-April 15, 1865—Washington, D.C.

REFERENCES

Publications

A number of books on Abraham Lincoln at various reading levels will be helpful, although Internet resources alone may be utilized. Some possible book choices are the following:

Abe Lincoln, Log Cabin to White House, Sterling North, Random House

If You Grew Up with Abraham Lincoln, Ann McGovern, Scholastic, Inc.

Young Abe Lincoln, The Frontier Days, 1809-1837, Cheryl Harness, National Geographic, 1996.

A. Lincoln, James Dougherty, Viking Press

Abraham Lincoln, The Life of America's 16th President, Gary Jeffrey & Kate Petty, Rosen Publishing Group

The Halls of Lincoln's Greatness, Edward Miller & Betty Jean Mueller, Meredith Press

Abe Lincoln's Hat, Martha Brenner, Random House, 1994.

Abe Lincoln's Hobby, Helen Kay, Reilly & Lee Co.

Henry's Lincoln, Louise A. Neyhart, Holiday House

Lincoln-Douglas Senatorial Debates of 1858, Jason Porterfield, Rosen Publishing Group

Abe Lincoln Goes to Washington, 1837-1865, Cheryl Harness, National Geographic, 1997.

Graces's Letter to Lincoln, Peter & Connie Roop, Scholastic, Inc.

Old Abe, The Eagle Hero, Patrick Young, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

The Emancipation Proclamation, David & Patricia Armentrout, Rourke Publishing

Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln, Jean Fritz, Putnam Publishing Group, 1993.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Steven P. Olson, Rosen Publishing Group

The Gettysburg Address, David and Patricia Armentrout, Rourke Publishing

Abraham Lincoln, Brenda Haugen, Compass Point Books

The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln, Bob O'Connor

Abraham Lincoln the Writer, Harold Holzer, Boyds Mills Press

Don't Know Much About Abraham Lincoln, Kenneth C. Davis, Harper Collins Publishing

The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, James Humes

Abraham Lincoln A Photographic Story of a Life, Tanya Stone

A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln, David Adler

Abraham Lincoln Lawyer, Leader, Legend, Justine Fontes

Meet Abraham Lincoln, Patricia and Ron Pingry

Abe Lincoln Grows Up, Carl Sandburg

Abraham Lincoln (Childhoods of the Presidents), Arthur Schlesinger

Lincoln at Home, Donald and David Herbert

Honest Abe, Edith Kunhardt, Greenwillow Press, 1993.

Young Abraham Lincoln: Log Cabin President, Andrew Woods, Troll Associates, 1992.

World Leaders, Past and Present: Abraham Lincoln, Roger Burns, Chelsea House, 1986.

Abraham Lincoln, Jim Hargrove, Children's Press, 1988.

Lincoln, William Jacobs, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1991.

Lincoln: A Photobiography, Russell Freeman, Clarion Books, 1987.

Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life, Stefan Lorant, Harper & Brothers, 1969.

Abraham Lincoln: To Preserve the Union, Russell Shorto, Silver Burdett Press, 1991.

The Lincoln Way, Jeffrey Morris, The Lerner Group, 1996.

Dr. Samuel Mudd and the Lincoln Assassination, John McHale, Silver Burdett Press, 1995.

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Robert Jakoubek, 1993.

Abraham Lincoln: A Man for the People: A Ballad, Myra Cohn Livingston, 1993.

Abraham Lincoln The Boy the Man, Lloyed Ostendorf, Wagner Office Systems, 1962.

Abe Lincoln Remembers, Anne Turner.

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Michael Burgan.

Lincoln's Little Girl, Fred Trump.

Abraham Lincoln The Great Emancipator, Augusta Stevenson.

Abraham Lincoln Fact Book and Teacher's Guide, Gerald Samders.

The Legend of Abe A Civil War Eagle, Kathy Wargin.

Abraham Lincoln: Defender of the Union, Sarah Hale, Cobblestone Publishing Company
November 2005.

Abraham Lincoln Coloring Book, A.G. Smith, Dover Publications, 1987.

Abraham Lincoln A Boy Who Became President, Weekly Reader Liter

United Streaming Videos (available at no additional cost for those with a yearly subscription)

Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln, The. United Learning. 1992.

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<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/>

American Heroes and Heroines: Abraham Lincoln. United Learning. 2004.

unitedstreaming. 21 July 2007

<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/>

Abraham Lincoln: The Early Years. AIMS Multimedia. 1997.

unitedstreaming. 21 July 2007

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Abraham Lincoln: The Presidency. AIMS Multimedia. 1997.

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Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address. Weston Woods.
1999.

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