

Really Good Gazette

All The Stuff That's Fun To Learn!

Abraham Lincoln Edition

Volume 002

★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT LINCOLN ★

Abraham Lincoln's Childhood

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a small log cabin in Kentucky. His parents were poorly educated and had little money. Abraham and his older sister, Sarah, worked on their farm. Abe chopped down trees, cleared land for the farm, plowed the fields, and helped build a new log cabin.

Abe and Sarah went to school only when they weren't needed at the farm. When they did go to school, they walked several miles to get there.

Abraham was tall and strong, and he loved to wrestle. He was also so good with an ax that he became a first-rate rail-splitter. Sadly, when Abraham was nine, his mother died. His father remarried a woman named Sarah who was very kind to Abe. Although his stepmother could not read or write, she encouraged young Abe to educate himself.



Lincoln's Homes and Many Jobs

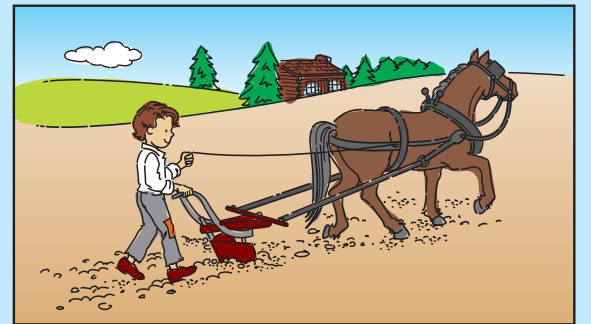
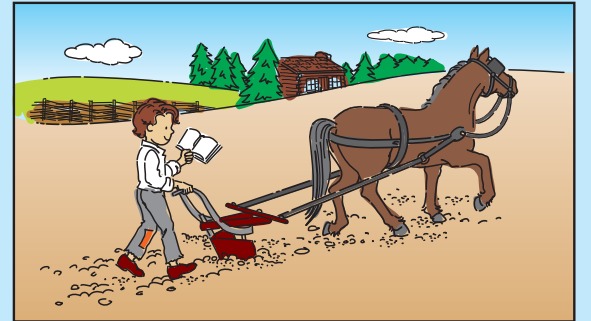
When Abe was seven years old, his family moved from Kentucky to Indiana. When he was 21, his family moved again. This time, they moved to Illinois.

During his life, Lincoln held many jobs. Among them, he was a lawyer, rail-splitter, storekeeper, postmaster, and surveyor. Being a clerk in a general store gave Lincoln time to read all the books and newspapers that came into the store. He became very interested in government, and in 1834, Lincoln was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. He taught himself all about law by reading. In 1836, Lincoln became a licensed lawyer and was well respected and successful.

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A REALLY GOOD QUOTE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
—Abraham Lincoln ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

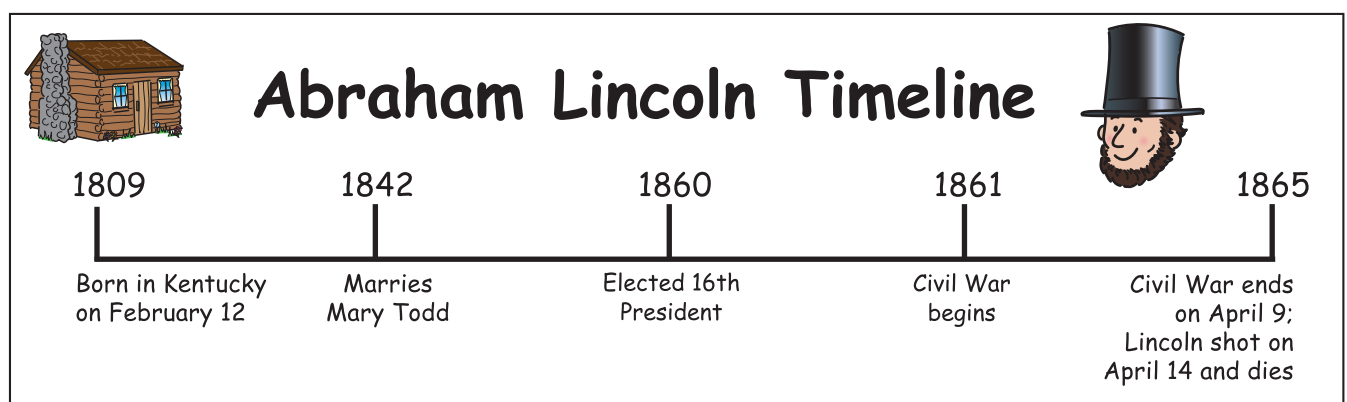
These are drawings of Abraham Lincoln as a young boy. Abe helped out on the farm, but he preferred to read. The pictures look similar but are not exactly the same. Try to find and circle the six differences in the pictures.



Tales about Lincoln's Hat

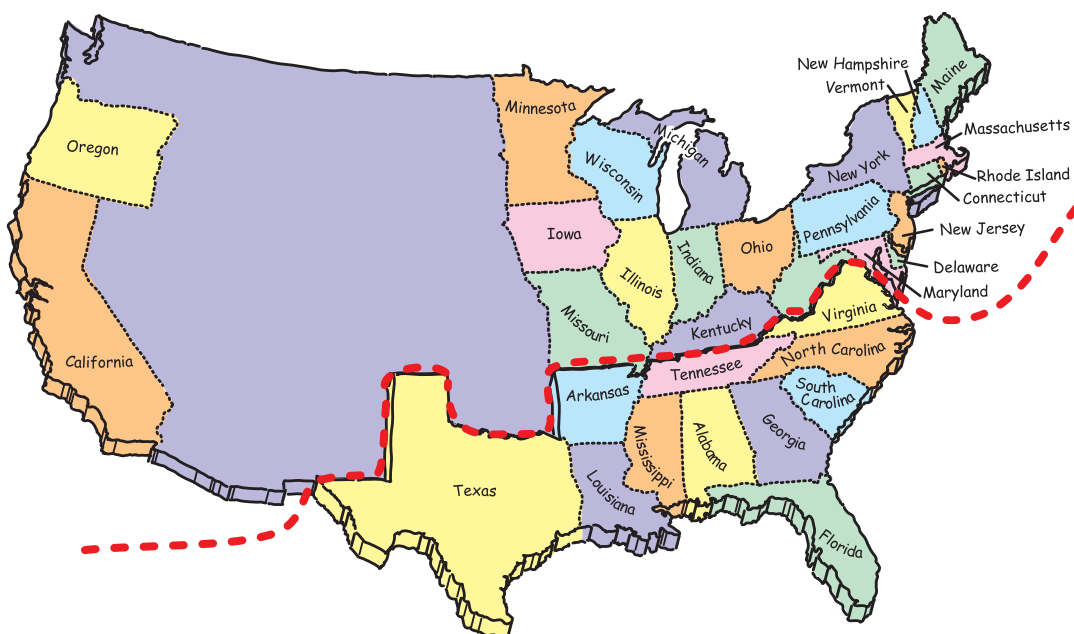
When Abraham Lincoln became a lawyer, he often wore a tall, black stovepipe hat. Because he was already 6'4" tall, the hat made Lincoln appear very tall and easy to recognize. According to legend, in order to keep track of his messages and notes, he stuffed them into his hat!

One day, some pranksters tied a rope to tree branches across the sidewalk that they knew Lincoln would follow. When Lincoln walked by, his hat hit the rope and fell off his head. All of his messages and notes flew away! But instead of being angry, Lincoln laughed and laughed and then simply picked up his important papers.



The Northern and Southern States During the Civil War 1861-1865

Eleven southern states seceded (withdrew) from the United States. Those eleven states (which appear below the dotted line) formed the Confederate States of America.



Lincoln Penny

Abraham Lincoln, honest and good
Respected and loved by many.
And so to honor this president
We put his head on a penny.
—anonymous



In 1909, to honor Abraham Lincoln, the government put Lincoln's picture on the front of the penny. It was the first American coin to bear a president's image. The Lincoln penny replaced the Indian Head penny, which had been in circulation since 1859.

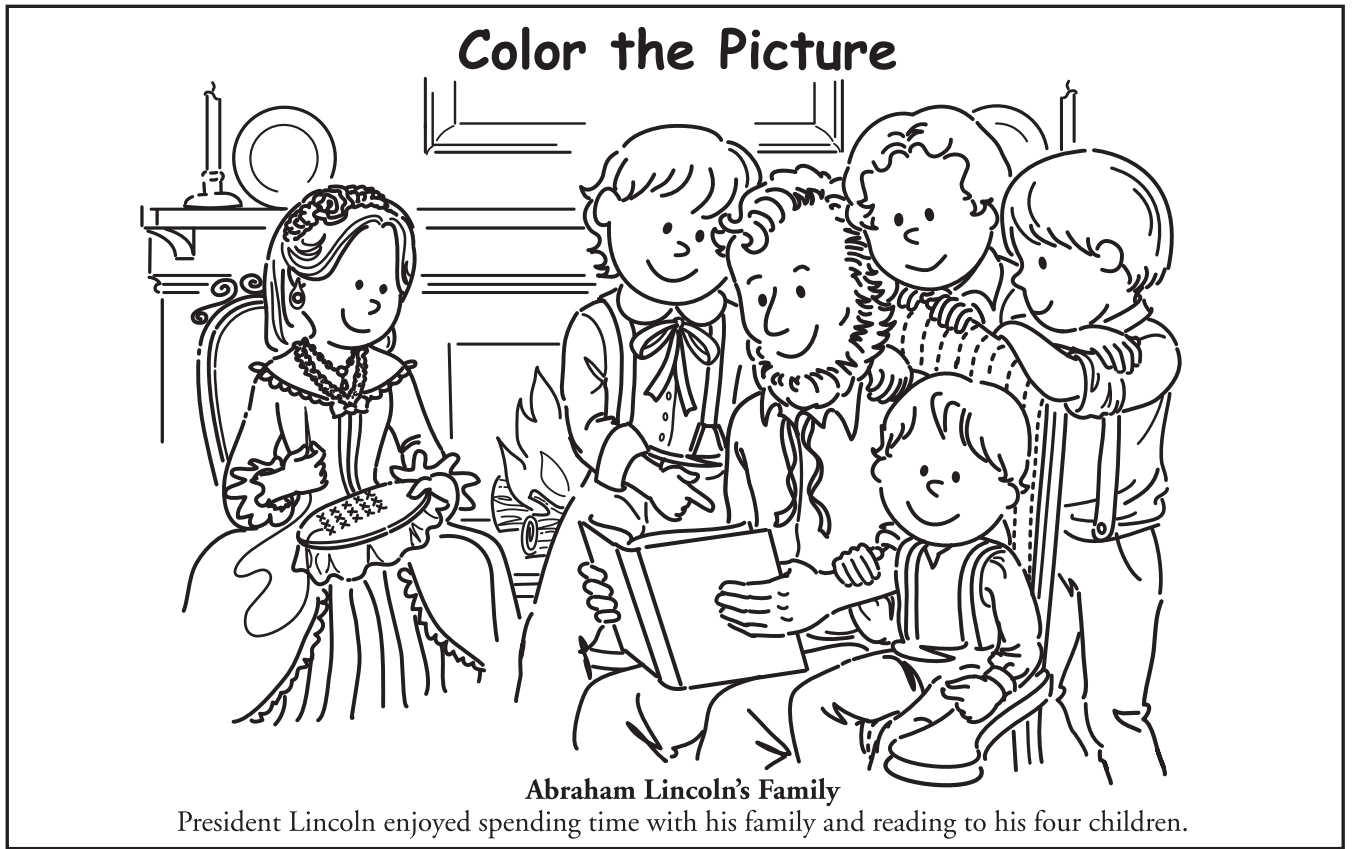
The year 2009 marked Lincoln's 200th birthday! To honor the special occasion, the government created a new Lincoln penny. Lincoln's face is still on the front of the new penny. The back of the penny has images from Lincoln's life.

Lincoln Elected President and the Civil War

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. On April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers fired upon Fort Sumter, which started the Civil War between the northern and the southern states. In all, 11 southern states seceded from the Union. The main reason the southern states separated from the rest of the country was that they wanted to continue to have slavery in the south. They didn't like the fact that President Lincoln was against slavery. The southern states formed the Confederate States of America.

Gettysburg Address

The Gettysburg Address is among Abraham Lincoln's most famous speeches. It is also one of the most quoted speeches in United States history. He delivered the speech about two years after the Civil War began, during the dedication of a national cemetery on the land where the Battle of Gettysburg had been fought a few months earlier. It was a short, powerful speech, lasting less than three minutes, in which Lincoln reminded Americans that all people are "created equal."



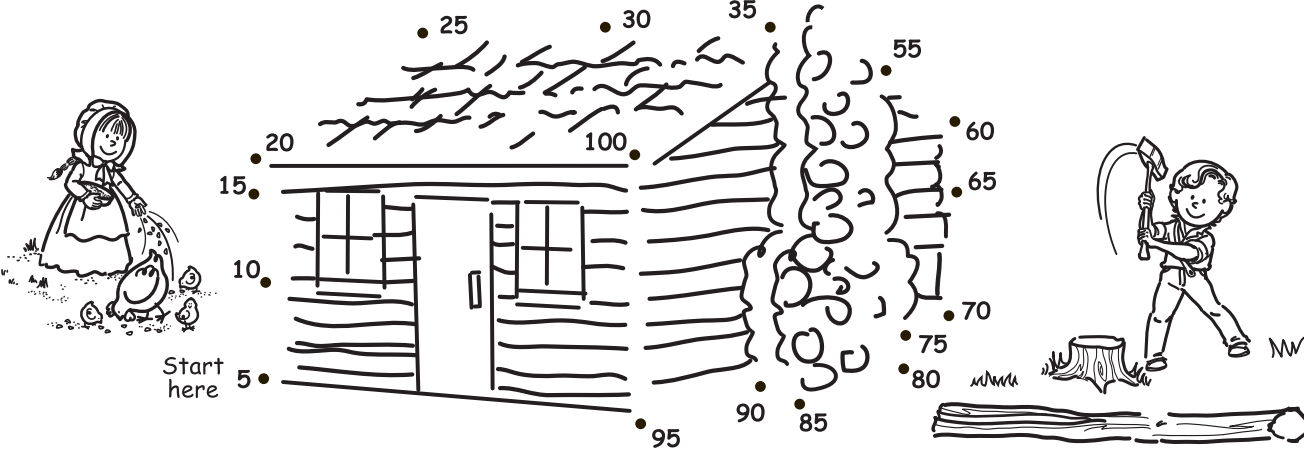
Abraham Lincoln's Family
President Lincoln enjoyed spending time with his family and reading to his four children.

Why Abraham Lincoln Grew a Beard

An 11-year-old girl named Grace Bedell wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln in October 1860. In the letter, she suggested that he grow a beard. It was a few weeks before Lincoln was elected president of the United States, and she told him that she thought more people would vote for him if he had a beard.

Lincoln replied to Grace's letter. He also quickly started growing a beard! The president-elect arranged to meet Grace while he was traveling through New York by train. On February 16, the train stopped and Lincoln appeared on the train platform to look for Grace in the crowd. As the story is told, Grace came forward, Lincoln kissed her, and he told her that he had taken her advice.

Connect the Dots



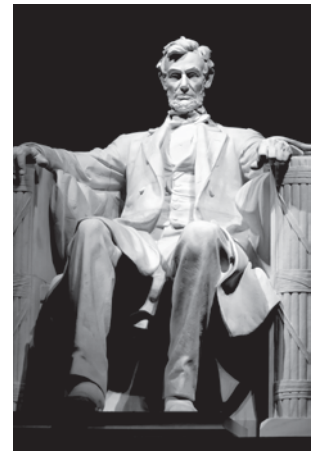
Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War Ends

In January 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that granted freedom to slaves. Finally, on April 9, 1865, the War Between the States ended. The North had won. But some slavery continued to exist for several more months until it was completely forbidden when the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified on December 18, 1865.

Assassination

On April 14, 1865, while President Lincoln watched a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. The president died the next day. This great loss saddened many Americans who thought he was kind and fair.

To this day, Abraham Lincoln is still considered one of the greatest presidents in our history.

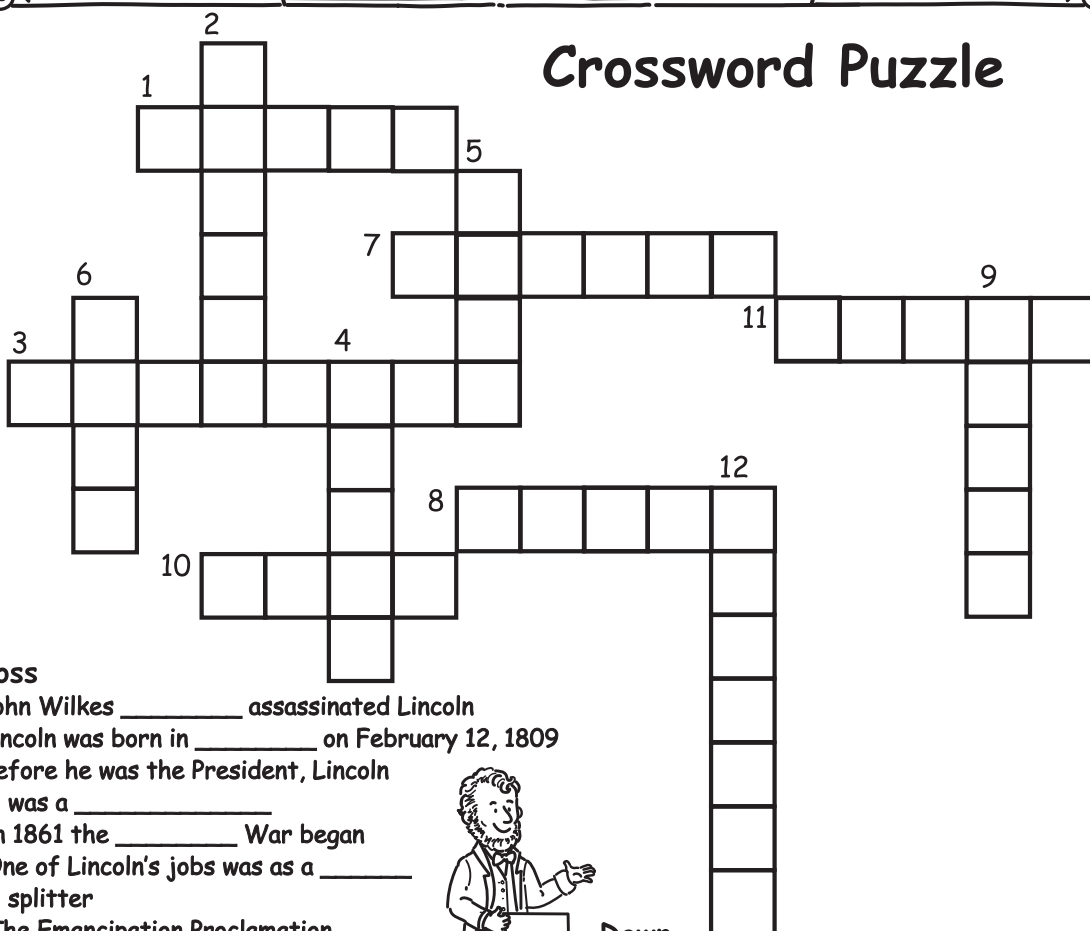


Lincoln Monument, Washington D.C.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. . . .

—Abraham Lincoln, 1858

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 John Wilkes _____ assassinated Lincoln
- 3 Lincoln was born in _____ on February 12, 1809
- 7 Before he was the President, Lincoln was a _____
- 8 In 1861 the _____ War began
- 10 One of Lincoln's jobs was as a _____ splitter
- 11 The Emancipation Proclamation _____ some slaves



Down

- 2 _____ Abe was one of his nicknames
- 4 Lincoln lived in a log _____
- 5 _____ was Lincoln's wife
- 6 Lincoln loved to _____ books
- 9 Lincoln said "All people are created _____."
- 12 The _____ Memorial is in Washington, D.C.