

Social Studies 05/27: The Election of 1860

PART ONE: Abraham Lincoln

A. Watch the following two video clips

- a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=mpec3pW76ag&feature=emb_title
- b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=L80_q2tPveo&feature=emb_title

B. Read the following document and **HIGHLIGHT FIVE SIGNIFICANT SENTENCES**

Biography

President Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln was the **16th President** of the United States.

Served as President: 1861-1865

Vice President: Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson

Party: Republican

Age at inauguration: 52

Born: February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, Hardin County, Kentucky

Died: April 15, 1865. Lincoln died the morning after being shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C

Married: Mary Todd Lincoln

Children: Robert, Edward, William, Thomas

Nickname: Honest Abe



Biography:

What is Abraham Lincoln most known for?

Lincoln is most famous for leading the country during the [American Civil War](#). His leadership in the North helped the country to remain strong and defeat the South keeping the country united. He also pushed for the freedom of all slaves throughout the nation.

Growing Up

Abraham Lincoln came from humble beginnings. He was born in a single-room [log cabin](#) in Hardin County, Kentucky. His parents were Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. His father lost everything when Abraham was young and they had to move to Perry County, Indiana where they struggled to get by. When he was just nine years old, his mother died and his sister Sarah took care of him until his father remarried.

Abraham had very little formal education, but had a strong interest in books and learning. Most of what he learned was self-educated and from books he borrowed. His family later moved to Illinois where Lincoln would set out on his own.

As a young man, Lincoln worked a variety of jobs including shopkeeper, surveyor, and postmaster. For a time, he even split firewood with an axe for a living. He soon moved into politics and won a seat in the Illinois Legislature when he was 25.

Before He Became President

Lincoln served on the Illinois State Legislature for several terms. During that time he studied the law and began to work as a lawyer. He ran for the U.S. Congress in 1845. He won the election and served as a congressman for one term. After serving as congressman he continued to work as a lawyer. Later, Lincoln ran for the U.S. Senate, he did not win but he did gain national recognition for his arguments against [slavery](#) during the debates.

In 1860, Lincoln ran for President of the United States. He was a member of the fairly new Republican party which strongly opposed allowing any of the southern states to secede (leave the country). The republicans were also against slavery. They said they would allow for slavery to continue in the southern states, but that it would not be allowed to spread to new U.S. states or territories.

Abraham Lincoln Presidency

Lincoln won the 1860 election and was inaugurated as president in March of 1861. The southern states did not

want Lincoln to be president. They did not agree with his policies. Before he was officially in office, they began to secede (leave the country). The first state to leave was South Carolina, but soon six more states followed and together they formed a new country called the [Confederacy](#). This all happened after Lincoln won the election, but before he took the oath of office.

The Civil War

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861 at [Fort Sumter](#) in South Carolina just a month after Lincoln took office. Lincoln was determined to maintain the "Union" of the states. He called for an army from the northern states to defeat the south. What followed was a bloody war that lasted four years and cost the lives of 600,000 Americans. Lincoln faced all sorts of opposition during the war, but managed to hold the country together.

The Emancipation Proclamation

On January 1, 1863 Lincoln issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#). This was an order that freed the slaves in the Confederate States. Although not all the slaves were immediately set free, it paved the way for the 13th Amendment which would free all slaves in the United States a few years later.

Gettysburg Address

Today, Lincoln is often remembered for a short speech he gave at Gettysburg on November 1, 1863. It's called the Gettysburg Address. It was only a few minutes long, but is considered one of the great speeches in American history.

The Civil War Ends

The Civil War finally ended on April 9, 1865 when [General Robert E. Lee surrendered](#) at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Lincoln wanted the country to heal, forgive, and rebuild. He wanted to be generous to the southern states in helping them during the reconstruction. Unfortunately, he would not live to see the country rebuild.

How did he die?

President Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending a play at the Ford Theatre in Washington D.C. He died the next day on April 15, 1865.

Fun Facts about Abraham Lincoln

- Honest Abe was the tallest president at 6 feet 4 inches tall.
- He set up a national banking system while he was president. He also established the Department of Agriculture.
- He was known as a gifted storyteller and liked to tell jokes.
- On the day he was shot, Lincoln told his bodyguard that he had dreamt he would be assassinated.
- He was the first president who had a full beard.
- He often stored things like letters and documents in his tall stove-piped hat.

D. Complete the Historical Biography Sheet on Abraham Lincoln

Historical Biography Sheet:

Person's Name:

Birth date:

Date of Death:

Early Life (30 words):

Character Traits (adjectives) (5 words):

What is he/she famous for: (3 statements)

Three interesting facts about this person: (30 words)

How did this person impact others and/or history? (30 words)

What do you admire and/or dislike about this person? (30 words)

Create a 40 word Wikipedia summarizing the life, events, and impact of this person's life.

Part Two: The Election of 1860

A. Read the following document on the Election of 1860 and **HIGHLIGHT THREE PASSAGES**

The Election of 1860

The presidential election of 1860 was one of the most pivotal in U.S. history. The nation was in the grips of a national turmoil over the issue of slavery, and the results of this election accelerated that turmoil.

The North and South had continued to be at odds for a generation or two about how to cope with the growth of slavery in the South. The agriculture industry in much of the South relied heavily on slave labor, and Southerners didn't want to lose what for them was a relatively cheap source of manpower.

Also at the forefront was the moral debate, about whether it is was right for one person to enslave another. This debate happened more frequently in the North and in Congress than it ever did in the South, but it occurred there as well.

The [Missouri Compromise](#) in 1820 had sought to calm the waters, by admitting one "free" state (Maine) and one "slave" state (Missouri). But the [Dred Scott decision](#) invalidated the Missouri Compromise and further threw into doubt the idea of popular sovereignty, which had driven both the mechanism of the [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) and the political philosophy of Illinois [Sen. Stephen A. Douglas](#). A further effort, the [Compromise of 1850](#), served to further anger Northerners on the slavery issue (as did the publication of [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#)), and the nation stood on the brink of tremendous sectional strife in 1860.



The Democratic Party split in that year, with Douglas championing the Northern half of the nation and [John C. Breckinridge](#) carrying the standard for the Southern Democratic Party. [John Bell](#) was the nominee of the recently formed [Constitutional Union Party](#). And the also recently formed [Republican Party](#) nominated, in a surprise to many political veterans, a Congressman from Illinois, [Abraham Lincoln](#), who had gained fame in his loss in a run for the Senate, for which he had engaged Douglas in a series of debates.

With the Democratic Party split in two, many people thought that a loss for the party was inevitable. Still, the popular votes in many Northern states were closer than they might appear given the eventual electoral outcome, which handed the presidency to Lincoln. The result was a nearly immediate secession by first South Carolina and then a huge handful of other Southern states.

Things would get much worse before they ever got better, but the presidential election of 1860 produced as President the man whom many historians consider the best and most effective chief executive ever.

B. Watch the following video about the Election of 1860

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=TGg5uDYHEQA&feature=emb_title

C. In a well-developed paragraph, answer the following question: Why were Southern Secessionists opposed to Lincoln's election?

