

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site



Post-Visit Lesson: *Sandburg and Lincoln* Grades 3-5

Lesson Length

Approximately one 60 minute lesson or two 30 minute lessons

Common Core State Standards

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1
- Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
- Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3

North Carolina Essential Standards

Social Studies

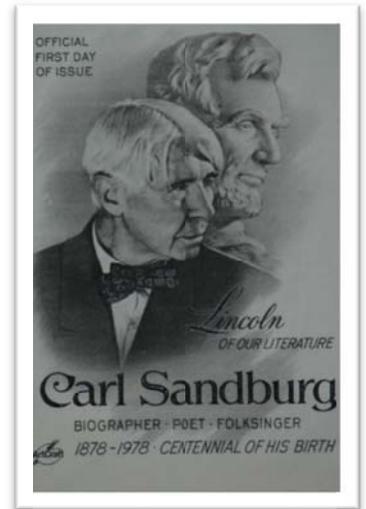
- Understand how events, individuals and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities. 3.H.1
- Use historical thinking skills to understand the context of events, people and places. 3.H.2
- Analyze the chronology of key events in the United States. 4.H.1

Learning Targets

- I can identify biographer, autobiographer, biography and autobiography.
- I can compare and contrast Carl Sandburg and Abraham Lincoln.
- I can identify key details within an informational text.

Materials Needed

- Section of writing from “Abe Lincoln Grows Up” for teacher to read (see attached)
- Sections of writing from “Abe Lincoln Grows Up” for small groups - may be printed on cardstock or laminated (see attached)
- Sandburg / Lincoln fact sorting activity (see attached)
- Whole class Venn diagram on whiteboard or large chart paper
- Optional—images of Lincoln and Sandburg from website projected on whiteboard:
www.nps.gov/history/museums/exhibits/carl/lincolnBiographer.html



Procedure

Activating Strategy

Acrostics, teacher will vertically write the word CARL on the whiteboard. Teacher will ask students to think about words that begin with the letters C, A, R, and L that could describe Carl Sandburg. Whole class will determine the best words that describe Carl for each of the letters. Teacher will then complete the acrostic poem about Carl Sandburg.

Teaching Strategy

1. Ask students “If you had someone famous to write about, who would it be and what might you write?” Prompt students in discussing the difference between an autobiography and a biography. Explain that Sandburg was a biographer of Abraham Lincoln.
 - What does a biographer do? Introduce the term historian, and relate that many historians enjoy writing about notable people.
 - How / Where does a biographer get information to write the biography?
 - How does a biographer teach us about history?
2. Share the longer piece of writing from “Abe Lincoln Grows Up” with the class (can be projected on whiteboard for students to follow along).
 - What do the students notice about the way Sandburg wrote?
 - Why do they think he wrote this way?
 - What does Sandburg teach us about Lincoln in this piece of writing?
3. Students will work in small groups using a piece of writing from “Abe Lincoln Grows Up” to identify facts about Lincoln and from “Prairie Town Boy” to identify facts about Sandburg. Groups will share facts with the class.
4. Teacher directed the whole class will complete a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting Sandburg and Lincoln.
5. As an independent activity to, give each student a Sandburg / Lincoln fact page to sort and paste.

Summarizing Strategy

Freeze Frame, a small group of students will create a tableau (a grouping of people not moving) that represents a key detail of Sandburg’s or Lincoln’s life. The other groups must guess the key detail of the tableau or freeze frame.

Sandburg and Lincoln Facts

Name: _____

Cut and paste facts to match the person.

Carl Sandburg	Abe Lincoln

Born in Kentucky	Born in Illinois
Poet of the People	President
Lived during World War I & II	Lived during the Civil War
Against Slavery	Lawyer
Newspaper Reporter	Lived at the White House
Lived at Connemara	Wife named Mary Todd
Wife named Lilian	Against Child Labor
Born on February 12, 1809	Born on January 9, 1878

“On the Knob Creek farm the child Abraham Lincoln learned to talk, to form the words with the tongue and the roof of the mouth and the force of the breath from lungs and throat.

“Pappy” and “Mammy” the words of his people meaning father and mother, were among the first syllables. He learned what the word “name” meant; his name was Abraham, the same as Abraham in the Bible, the same as his grandfather Abraham. It was “Abe” for short; if his mother called in the dark, “Is that you, Abe?” he answered, “Yes, Mammy, it’s me.” The name of the family he belonged to was “Lincoln” or “Linkun,” though most people called it “Linkern” and it was sometimes spelled “Linkhorn.”

The family lived there on Knob Creek farm, from the time Abe was three or so till he was past seven years of age. Here he was told “Kaintucky” meant the state he was living in; Knob Creek farm, the Rock Spring farm where he was born, Hodgenville, Elizabethtown, Muldraugh’s Hill, these places he knew, the land he walked on, was all part of Kentucky.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg. 398

“Seven-year-old Abe walked four miles a day going to the Knob Creek school to learn to read and write. Zachariah Riney and Caleb Hazel were the teachers who brought him along from A B C to where he would write the name “A-b-r-a-h-a-m L-i-n-c-o-l-n” and count numbers beginning with one, two, three, and so on. He heard twice two is four.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.400

“The boy, Abe, had his thoughts, some running ahead wondering how Indiana would look, some going back to his seven little years in Kentucky. Here he had curled around his mother’s apron, watched her face, and listened to her reading the Bible at the cabin log-fire, her fingers rambling through his hair, the hands patting him on the cheek and under the chin.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg. 406

“During the year 1817, little Abe Lincoln, eight years old, going on nine, had an ax put in his hands and helped his father cut down trees and notch logs for the corners of their new cabin, forty yards from the pole-shed where the family was cooking, eating, and sleeping.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg. 416

“So came the birth of Abraham Lincoln that 12th of February in the year 1809—in silence and in pain from a wilderness mother on a bed of cornhusks and bearskins...”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.397

“The farm boys in their evenings at Jones’s store in Gentryville talked about how Abe Lincoln was always reading, digging into books, stretching out flat on his stomach in front of the fireplace, studying till midnight and past midnight.....”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.442

“Kittens he had always liked; where other men enjoyed hunting and fishing, he found sport in petting kittens. And babies, particularly his own babies were sacred keepsakes....”

Abraham Lincoln Biography Volume 1 The Prairie Years pg. 426

“Mr. Lincoln showed great consideration for his wife. She was unusually timid and nervous during a storm. If the clouds gathered and the thunder rolled, he knew its effect on his wife and would at once hasten home to remain there with her till the skies cleared and the storm was safely over.”

Abraham Lincoln Biography Volume 1 The Prairie Years pg. 428

“Abe was a chore-boy of the Knob Creek farm as soon as he grew big enough to run errands, to hold a pine-knot at night lighting his father at a job, or to carry water, fill the woodbox, clean ashes from the fireplace, hoe weeds, pick berries... ”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.401

“Abe ran after tools his father called for, sometimes held a hammer, a saw and a knife in his hands ready to give his father the next one called for. If his father said, “Fetch me a drink of water,” the boy fetched; his legs belonged to his father.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.410

“As Abe Lincoln, seven years old, going on eight, went to sleep on his bed of dry leaves in a corner of the pole-shed there on Little Pigeon Creek, in Indiana, in the winter of 1816, he had his thoughts, his feelings, his impressions. He shut his eyes and looking-glasses began to work inside his head; he could see Kentucky and the Knob Creek farm again; he could see the Ohio River shining so far across that he couldn't begin to throw a stone from one side to the other.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.413

“He wanted to learn, to know, to live, to reach out; he wanted to satisfy hungers and thirsts he couldn’t tell about, this big boy of the backwoods. And some of what he wanted so much, so deep down, seemed to be in the books. Maybe in books he would find the answers...”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.443

“Young Abe was out with an ax, saw, and draw-knife building himself a light flatboat at Bate’s Landing, a mile and a half down the river from Anderson’s Creek. He was eighteen years old, a designer, builder, navigator; he cut down trees, hewed out planks pegged and cleated together the bottoms and sides of his own boat, wood from end to end.”

Abe Lincoln Grows Up from The Sandburg Treasury pg.453