

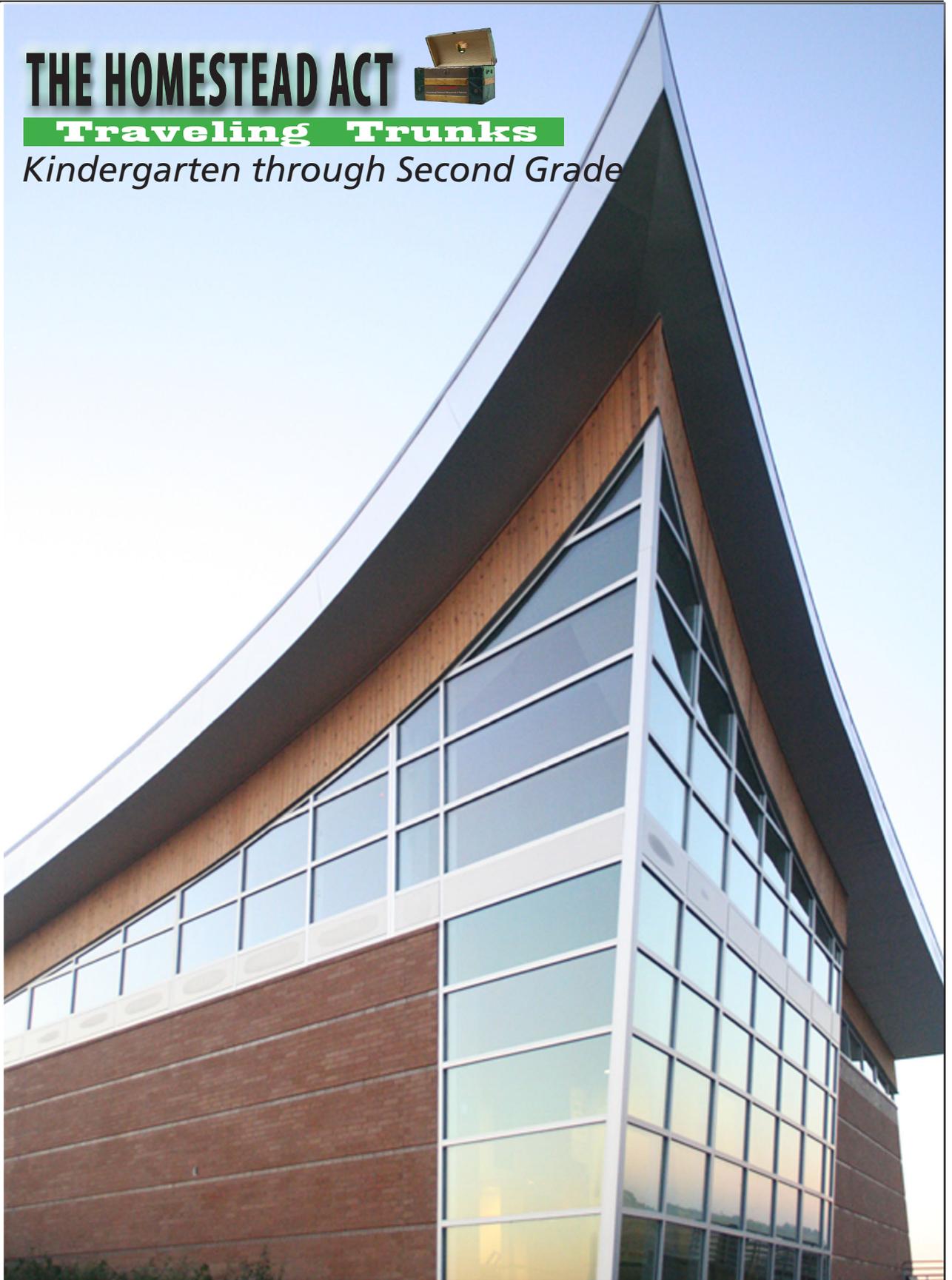
Free Land was the Cry!

THE HOMESTEAD ACT



Traveling Trunks

Kindergarten through Second Grade



Homestead

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Homestead National Monument
of America, Nebraska



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Merrith Baughman, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management,
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Presidential Thoughts on the Homestead Act

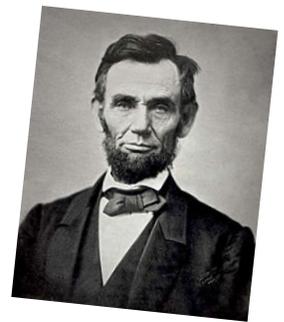


There are certain things we can only do together. There are certain things only a union can do. Only a union could harness the courage of our pioneers to settle the American west, which is why (President Abraham Lincoln) passed a Homestead Act giving a tract of land to anyone seeking a stake in our growing economy.

President Barack Obama, February 12, 2009

An allusion has been made to the Homestead Law. I think it is worthy of consideration, and that the wild lands of the country should be distributed so that every man should have the means and opportunity of benefitting his condition.

Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1861 [replying to comments made by Frederick Oberkline, chairman of a committee representing eighteen German industrial associations that called in a body to pay their respects as Lincoln's "Inaugural" Train stopped in Cincinnati, Ohio]



The newcomers quickly learned their way about and soon felt at home. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided them, as well as many other pioneers, with an opportunity to acquire land and establish family farms.

To the land-hungry immigrants, the tough prairie sod seemed a golden opportunity and they conquered it by hard work.

Harry S. Truman, June 4, 1948

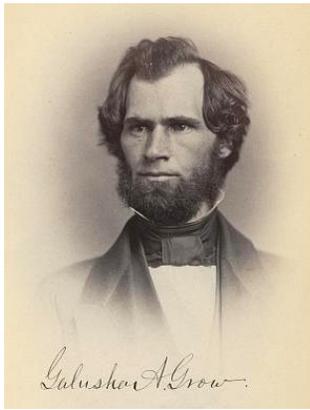


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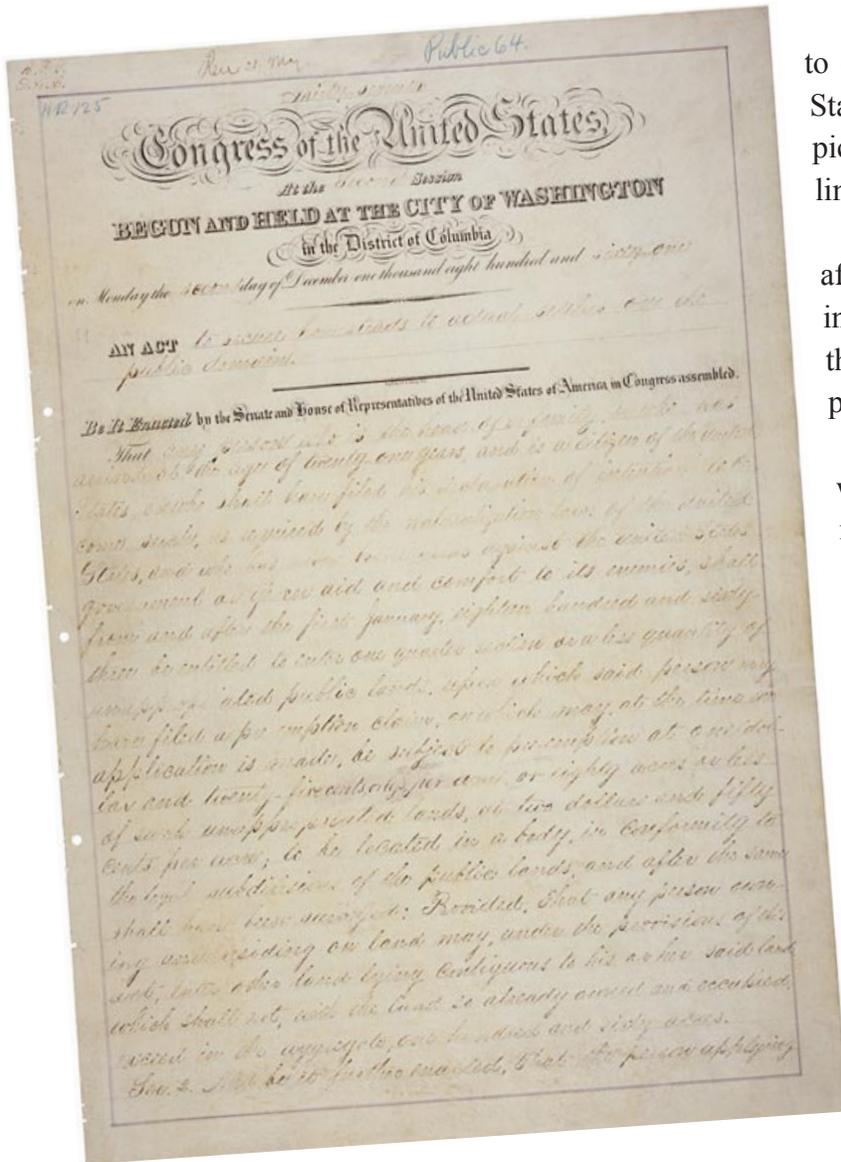
Galusha Grow is the author of the Homestead Act.

This unit has Classroom and Station Activities for teachers to use to help their classes learn about the Homestead Act of 1862 and its impact on America.

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Some of the ideas in this lesson may have been adapted from earlier, unacknowledged sources without our knowledge. If the reader believes this to be the case, please let us know, and appropriate corrections will be made. Thank you.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



to entice people to move to the United States. These representatives showed pictures of beautiful towns with tree-lined streets and rich soil for farming.

The applicant of a claim had to file an affidavit with the local land office stating they met the conditions required by the law. At this time, the claimant would pay a fee of \$12 for filing the paperwork.

Once the filing was complete, there were additional requirements to meet in order to receive the patent and title to the land. A person had to build a home, live on the land, make the land his/her permanent residence, and work the land for a period of 5 years.

Many people who came to claim land paid for the services of a locator. This person would assist them in finding an unclaimed tract of land. Many locators showed individuals land near their own claim in order to “settle” the country and have neighbors nearby.

After living on the land, building a home, and farming the land for 5 years, it was time to “prove up.”

The Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres of land away to individuals who met certain requirements. In order to file a claim, an individual had to be at least 21 years of age and be the head of household. This law allowed women to file claims and own land. The act also required a person to be a citizen of the United States or declare intention to gain citizenship. This allowed many European immigrants, African-Americans and others to stake claims as well. Many railroads and western towns sent representatives to European countries

This simply required the homesteader to find two individuals who would serve as witnesses. These witnesses had to state they had known the homesteader for 5 years, knew the claimant had tilled the land and grown crops. With witnesses in tow, a claimant would proceed to the land office to “prove up,” paying another small filing fee of \$6 and having both witnesses sign the final documents. Afterwards, the claimant would receive a final certificate or patent to the land, having met all the conditions.

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

- Students will familiarize themselves with the events in Abraham Lincoln’s life.
- Students will familiarize themselves with the Homestead Act of 1862.
- Students will learn about Grace Bedell.
- Students will write a letter or postcard.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

This unit is broken up into different grade levels, so there are many standards that could apply. These are just a few of them.

NSS-USH.K-4.1 LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, NOW AND LONG AGO

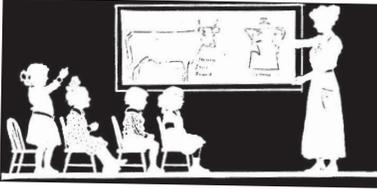
- Understands family life now and in the past, and family life in various places long ago.
- Understands the history of the local community and how communities in North America varied long ago.

NSS-USH.K-4.2 THE HISTORY OF STUDENTS’ OWN STATE OR REGION

- Understands the people, events, problems, and ideas that were significant in creating the history of their state.

SPECIAL ICONS		<i>Enrichment Activities</i>				
	Indicates a reproducible handout is included	Indicates advanced lessons	Indicates an additional math lesson	Indicates a little known fact about the subject	Indicates an additional music or art activity	Indicates an additional language arts lesson

Classroom Activity #1



A LETTER TO LINCOLN

Have students perform the Reader's Theater Play "A Letter to Lincoln." It is about the story of 11-year-old Grace Bedell writing to President Abraham Lincoln, his response and her eventual meeting with the President. You can have students make or bring in their own costumes.

A Letter to Lincoln



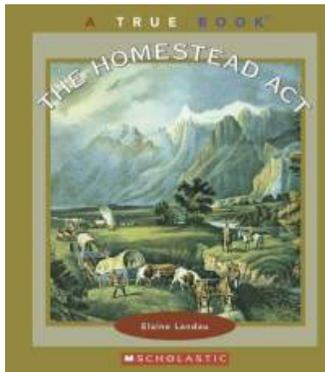
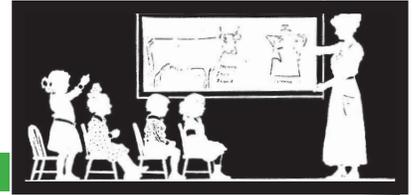
An Original Readers' Theater Play From Weekly Reader

Edition 2 Supplement, February 2008

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THE HOMESTEAD ACT, A TRUE BOOK



The Homestead Act, A True Book

by Elaine Landau

The Homestead Act of 1862 opened the door to settlement in the American West. The act promised acres of public land to nearly anyone who filed a claim and lived on the property for five years. It encouraged thousands to leave their homes to seek new opportunities and in the process changed the landscape of the West forever.



Introductory Set

Discuss the following questions with students.

Ask students why their family lives in the community that they do?

Ask why people move from one place to another?

Ask students to imagine they were living in the 1860's and identify where in the United States they would most likely live?

Remind students that while there were American Indians living throughout the 30 Homesteaded states there were few others living on the plains.

Share with students that today they will become familiar with the Homestead Act of 1862 that encouraged the settlement of the west.

Process

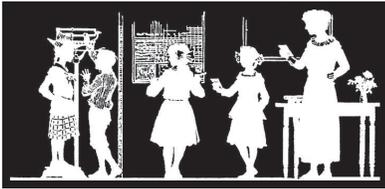
Read the book "The Homestead Act, A True Book" to the class.

Students should answer the following questions in regard to the Homestead Act, A True Book

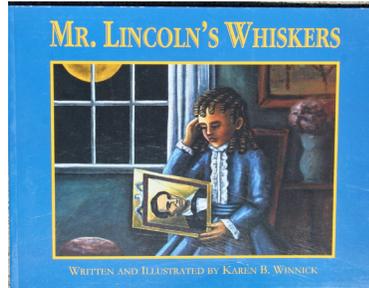
- What did people see and hear that made them think about moving west?
- What did the government want that caused them to break their treaties with the American Indians?
- What were some challenges to getting people to move to the new frontier?
- How did the government make it easier for people to move west?
- Discuss with the students the meaning of the important words (definitions appear on page 46):
droughts, frontier, homestead, immigrants, prairie, prove up, reservations, soddies, treaties, widows

There is a crossword in the Homestead Handouts to reinforce definitions.

Station Activity #1



MR. LINCOLN'S WHISKERS



In this activity students will read Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers or have it read to them. Students will then work on the Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers crossword available in the Homestead Handouts to review vocabulary. Then either on their own or with the help of a group leader have students answer questions about how Grace feels.

Look for new vocabulary

Have the students look for words they do not know and if they come across a word they do not know have them

- Look at the whole sentence where you see the word. Try to figure out what the word means based on what the sentence is talking about
- Look at the picture to see if there is an image of the word. For example, maybe you don't know the word "parlor," and the sentence says, "The family sat in the parlor." Look at the picture on that page to examine the location of the family—that might be what a parlor is!
- Look the word up in a dictionary. There might be more than one definition, so see which one fits best with the sentence you're reading.

Vocabulary Words

Advise	recommend
Affection	the act of taking on or displaying an attitude or mode of behavior not natural to oneself or not genuinely felt
Election	the act or process of selecting by vote for an office, position, or membership
Hollows	depressed or low part of a surface
Parlor	a room used primarily for conversation or the reception of guests
Platform	a usually raised horizontal flat surface; <i>especially</i> : a raised flooring
President	the title given to the chief executive officer of a republic, such as the United States of America
Rail-splitter	one that makes logs into fence rails
Slavery	the practice of holding people against their will and making them work without pay
Telegraph	an apparatus, system, or process for communication at a distance by electric transmission over wire

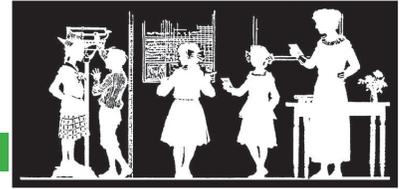


How does Grace feel?

Grace feels different emotions during the story. Using clues from the words or pictures in the story, try to guess her feelings when:

- ...when she gets the poster from Papa?
- ...after talking to her brothers at dinner?
- ...on her way to the post office to mail her letter?
- ...as she's running home from the post office with Mr. Lincoln's letter?
- ...when her brothers and Papa go to vote on election day?
- ...as she waits in the crowd at the train station?
- ...after Mr. Mann tells her Mr. Lincoln wants to meet Grace?
- ...when she meets Mr. Lincoln and sees his new whiskers?

A LETTER TO LINCOLN



Cool
Internet
Sites:



Grace Bedell wrote a letter to the Mr. Lincoln.

Read her letter and then write a letter or postcard of your own to a friend, family member or to a government official.

Use the Interactive Letter Generator by ReadWriteThink to reinforce how to write a letter.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/letter_generator/

NY
Westfield Chatauque Co
Oct. 15, 1860
Hon A B Lincoln

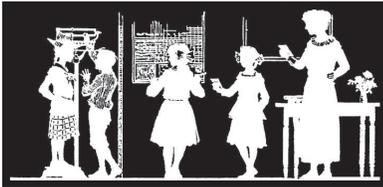
Dear Sir,

My father has just come home from the fair and brought home your picture and Mr. Hamlin's. I am a little girl only eleven years old, but want you should be President of the United States very much so I hope you wont think me very bold to write to such a great man as you are. Have you any little girls about as large as I am if so give them my love and tell her to write to me if you cannot answer this letter. I have got 4 brother's and part of them will vote for you any way and if you let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you you would look a great deal better for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husband's to vote for you and then you would be President. My father is going to vote for you and then you would be President. My father is a going to vote for you and if I was a man I would vote for you to but I will try get every one to vote for you that I can I think that rail fence around your picture makes it look very pretty. I have got a little baby sister she is nine weeks old and is just as cunning as can be. When you direct your letter direct to Grace Bedell Westfield Chatauque County New York

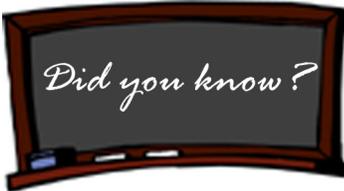
I must not write any more answer this letter right off

Good bye
Grace Bedell

Station Activity #3



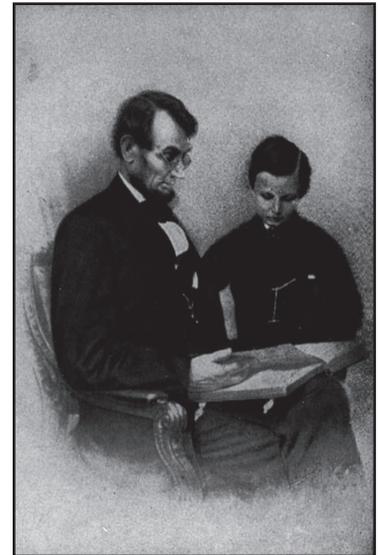
GETTING TO KNOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Did you ever wonder what happened to “Lincoln’s Little Correspondent?” Grace Bedell was eleven when she wrote Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he grow a beard in order to improve his looks. The ladies would surely encourage their husbands to vote for him and he could become President. At the age of fourteen, she wrote President Lincoln to inquire about a job in his treasury department. Though her letters thrust this precocious young girl into the limelight, Grace’s life was actually just beginning. At the tender age of seventeen, Grace married former teacher, and Union Civil War veteran, George Newton Billings. The couple moved to Delphos, Kansas and raised one son, Harlow.

Abraham Lincoln had an interesting life. Have students read or read to the students the Short Biography of Abraham Lincoln in the Homestead Handouts.

Students may then color the pages located in the Homestead Handouts or draw a picture of their own.

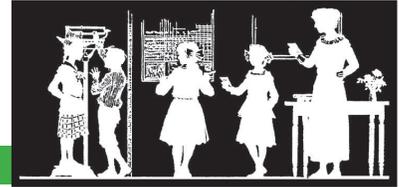


Abraham Lincoln Coloring Page



Each national park site has its own special story to tell. Homestead National Monument of America’s story is about homesteading, but there are other sites to visit which will increase your understanding of Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln and his family moved to Indiana in 1816 and stayed until 1830 when they moved to Illinois. During this period, Lincoln grew physically and intellectually into a man. The people he knew here and the things he experienced had a profound influence on his life. His sense of honesty, his belief in the importance of education and learning, his respect for hard work, his compassion for his fellow man, and his moral convictions about right and wrong were all born of this place and this time. The time he spent here helped shape the man that went on to lead the country. Visit www.nps.gov/libo for more information.

MAKE A LOG CABIN



Pretzel Log Cabin

By: Amanda Formaro

Presidents' Day is a great time to teach kids about how our forefathers grew up in log cabins and worked the land with their own two hands. This pretzel log cabin is a fun and edible history lesson in the making!

Materials

Small empty milk carton
 Pretzel sticks
 Chocolate frosting or peanut butter
 1 Rolo or other tubular shaped candy
 1 square cracker
 Scissors
 Hot glue or tape



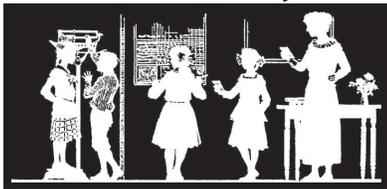
How to make it

1. Cut the top flap of the milk carton off and tape or hot glue it closed to form the roof.
2. Spread chocolate frosting or peanut butter on one side of milk carton then cover with pretzels.
3. Repeat this step all over the milk carton until the log cabin is complete.
4. You may need to break the tips off of some of the pretzels to make them fit the sides.
5. Break a square cracker in half, then break one of the halves in half.
6. Spread some frosting or peanut butter on the back of the first half.
7. "Glue" it to the front of the cabin as the door.
8. Repeat this step with a smaller broken piece for the window.
9. Spread some frosting or peanut butter to the bottom of Rolo and stick to the roof.

Source: <http://crafts.kaboose.com/pretzel-log-cabin.html>

Each national park site has its own special story to tell. Homestead National Monument of America's story is about homesteading, but there are other sites to visit which will increase your understanding of Presidents. Mount Rushmore National Memorial is host to almost three million visitors a year from across the country and around the world. They come to marvel at the majestic beauty of the Black Hills of South Dakota and to learn about the birth, growth, development and the preservation of our country. Over the decades, Mount Rushmore has grown in fame as a symbol of America—a symbol of freedom and of hope for people from all cultures and backgrounds. Visit www.nps.gov/moru for more information.



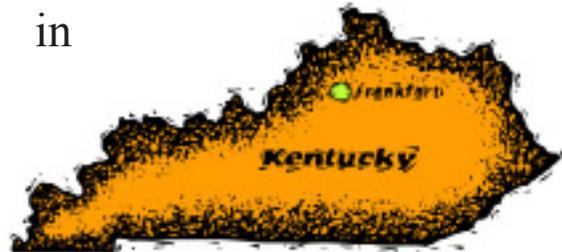


ABRAHAM LINCOLN TIMELINE

From Log Cabin...



in



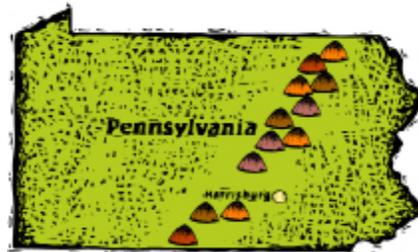
...to Indiana



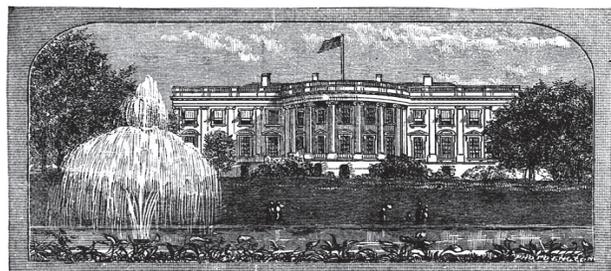
...to Illinois
at New Salem, and Springfield

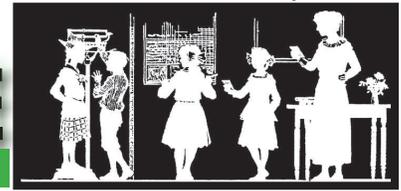


...to Pennsylvania
at Gettysburg



...to the White House





ABRAHAM LINCOLN TIMELINE

Have the students create a timeline of the important events in Abraham Lincoln’s life. This can be done as a class using the full page handouts in the Additional Resources or by using the Timeline Template, also in the Additional Resources.

1809

Born in Hardin County (now LaRue County) Kentucky.

1816

Moved to Perry County (now Spencer County) Indiana.

1830

Moved to Macon County Illinois.

1831

Moved to New Salem, Illinois.

1837

Moved to Springfield, Illinois, the new capital of Illinois.

1861

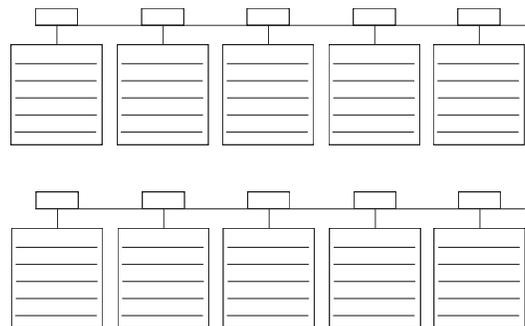
Moved to Washington, D.C. to be inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States.

1865

After being assassinated at Ford’s Theater, Lincoln’s body is laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois.



The Life of Abraham Lincoln



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Books

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers, by Karen Winnick, Boyds Mills Press, 1996

The Homestead Act, A True Book, by Elaine Landau, Children's Press, 2006



Interactive Letter Generator by ReadWriteThink

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/letter_generator/

National Park Service Lincoln Boyhood Home

www.nps.gov/libo

National Park Service Mount Rushmore National Memorial

www.nps.gov/moru

Pretzel Log Cabin

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/pretzel-log-cabin.html>

A Letter to Lincoln



Patrick Girouard

Special
Reproducible
Supplement

An Original Readers' Theater Play From Weekly Reader

Edition 2 Supplement, February 2008

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Name _____



A Letter to Lincoln

Characters: (in order of appearance)

House Narrator 1
House Narrator 2
Grace

Mother
Father
Levant

Jennie
Post Office Narrator
Mr. Mann

Abraham Lincoln
Lincoln Narrator

House Narrator 1: A long time ago in the United State of America, life was very different. People used to own slaves! Women weren't allowed to vote, and railroad travel was the fastest way of getting around.

House Narrator 2: Our story takes place in the fall of 1860. A man named Abraham Lincoln was running for president. Grace Bedell and her brother Levant wait with their mother for their father to return from a nearby fair. They are at their home in Westfield, New York.

Grace Mother, mother! When will Father be home from the fair?

Mother He'll be home soon, Grace. He is rallying to support Abraham Lincoln! That is important work.

Grace: I know, but Father said he would bring me a surprise!

Mother: Grace! Can't you think of anything other than presents? If Lincoln is elected president, our country might be split in two.

Grace: Why would that happen? I think Lincoln is a good man.

Mother Lincoln wants to stop slavery. Some people agree with him, but others want to keep their slaves.

Grace It can't be right for one person to own another person.

Mother: No, it isn't. That's why your father is voting for Lincoln.

Father: I'm back!! Is anyone home?

Grace: Father!

Father: Where is Levant? I've brought presents for everyone!

Mother: He's washing up for dinner. Come sit and we'll eat.

Father: All right, but first: here, this is for Mother, and for you, Grace, I brought Lincoln's campaign poster!

Grace: Oh, Father, thank you! I love it!

House Narrator 1: The family was excited to hear Father's stories about the fair. They sat down for dinner and talked about it.

Levant: What did you see at the fair, Father?

Father: There were many politicians giving speeches, and people shouting about who they wanted to become president.

Grace: How many people are trying to be president?

Mother: There are four candidates: Abraham Lincoln, John Bell, Stephen Douglas, and John Breckinridge.

Levant: Yes, funny-looking old Abraham Lincoln! He doesn't look like a president to me.

Grace: I think he's very handsome! He's just thin.

Levant: Well, you're a girl! It's not like you can actually vote!

Grace: Levant is so mean! Lincoln isn't funny looking, but his face is so thin! Maybe if he grows a beard. Wait, that's it. He should grow a beard! Then he'd be even more handsome! I'll write a letter to tell him.

House Narrator 2: Grace walked to school the next morning. She was excited. She wanted to tell her friend Jennie about the poster and the letter she would write.

Jennie: Hi, Grace! What's that you have in your hand?

Grace: This is Mr. Lincoln's campaign poster.

Jennie: My father says he's voting for Mr. Lincoln.

Grace: So does mine. I wish I could vote!

Jennie: Mr. Lincoln's trying to end slavery so everyone will have equal rights. Maybe someday women will be able to vote.

Grace: I hope so. Jennie, I had an idea last night! My brother was teasing me and saying that Lincoln was funny looking.

Jennie: Well, he is awfully skinny.

Grace: I know. I think he'd look much better if he had a beard!

Jennie: Hmm... You're right! His face wouldn't look so thin.

Grace: I'm going to write to him and tell him!

Jennie: What? You can't do that! He's too important. He doesn't have time to read letters from children like us.

Grace: I think that he'll read it! I'm going to write it today after school. I think he might even write back.

Post Office Narrator: After school, Grace sat down and wrote the letter, Then she and Levant ran to the post office. Mr. Mann, the postmaster, would mail it for her. She hoped Lincoln would reply quickly.

Mr. Mann: Well, Hello, Miss Grace.

Grace: Hello, Mr. Mann. Will you mail this letter, please?

Mr. Mann: “Mr. Abraham Lincoln?”

Grace: Yes, I’ve written a letter to Mr. Lincoln.

Levant: He’s too busy. He’ll never get it. Don’t bother him with silly things.

Grace: It’s not silly!

Mr. Mann: I suppose I could mail it for you.

Grace: Thank you, Mr. Mann!

Post Office Narrator: The next day, Grace went back to the post office.

Grace: Hello, Mr. Mann. Is there any mail for me?

Mr. Mann: Not yet, Grace.

Post Office Narrator: Grace visited the post office every day to see if Mr. Lincoln had replied to her letter. Meanwhile, at Lincoln’s house, the mail has just arrived.

Abraham Lincoln: Hmm, what’s this? A letter from a Miss Grace Bedell?

Lincoln Narrator: “Honorable A. B. Lincoln, Dear Sir, My father has just come home from the fair, and brought home your picture. I am a little girl only eleven years old. If you will let your whiskers grow, I will try and get everyone to vote for you. I must not write any more. Answer this letter right off. Good bye, Grace Bedell.”

Lincoln: Why, how kind. I will reply to it right away.

Post Office Narrator: Back in Westfield, Grace returned to the post office every day for a week, but there was no reply. Until...

Mr. Mann: Grace! He wrote back! Lincoln replied!

Grace: Oh, how wonderful!!

Levant: What did he say, Grace? Read it to us!

Grace: I must take it home!

House Narrator 1: Grace took the letter and ran home. It was snowing. Big snowflakes fell on the paper, but she just brushed them right off. She ran into the house to show her mother the letter.

Grace: Mother, look! Mr. Lincoln wrote to me!

Mother: You wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln?

Grace: Yes, I told him that he should grow a beard and that he would look more handsome and more people would vote for him! He wrote back! Listen to this: “My dear little Miss. Your very agreeable letter is received.. As to the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a piece of silly affection if I were to begin it now? Your very sincere well-wisher, A. Lincoln.”

Mother: It was very kind of him to write back to you.

Grace: Isn't it amazing?

House Narrator 2 Grace brought the letter to school the next day and showed it to all her classmates. Everyone was talking about how Grace had received a letter from Mr. Lincoln! Months went by and the excitement died down. Grace kept the letter on her desk. She waited eagerly to hear news of the election.

Father: Mr. Lincoln is winning the election!

Grace: Hurray! Lincoln will be our next president!

House Narrator 1: Abraham Lincoln won the presidential election. One month later, he began his trip to Washington, D.C. The family heard that Lincoln's train was going to pass through Westfield. Grace was very excited.

Grace: Mother, please! I want to go to the train station to see Mr. Lincoln!

Mother: Well, you did write to him. I suppose it's all right.

Lincoln Narrator: At the train station, a huge crowd of people watched the train steam towards them. They were cheering and waving. Grace stood as tall as she was able, but she still couldn't see over all the people.

Grace: I can't see anything! Is he speaking?

Abraham Lincoln: A few months ago, I received a letter from a lovely young lady by the name of Grace Bedell. I believe she lives in this town. Is she here today?

Lincoln Narrator: Grace's father cleared a path to the platform for her.

Abraham Lincoln: Hello, Grace. As you can see, I took your advice about my appearance. How does my beard look?

Grace: It looks great! I'm so glad you are the president, Mr. Lincoln!

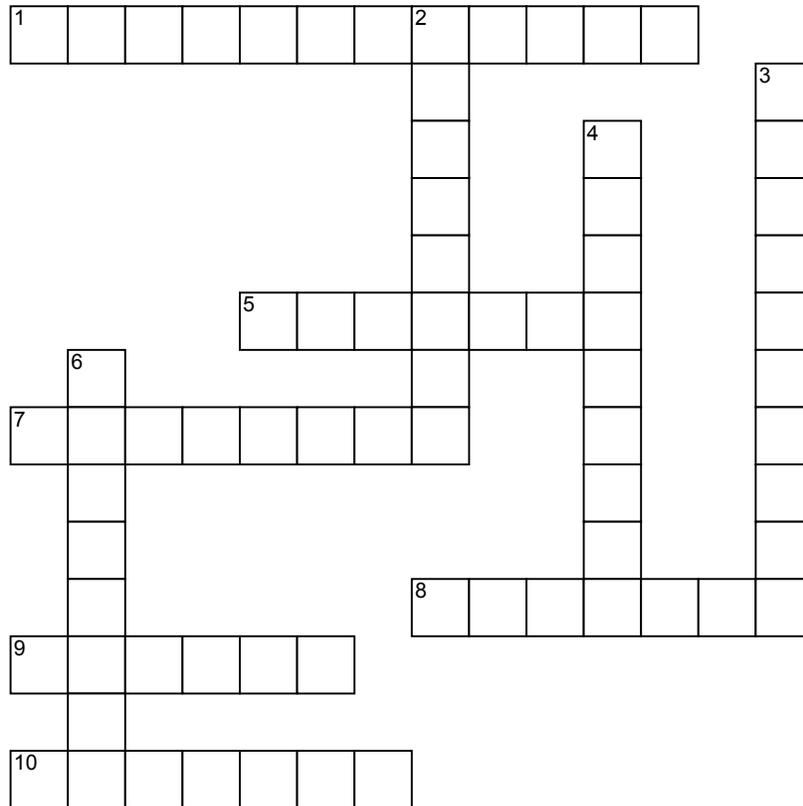
Lincoln Narrator: Lincoln left Westfield later that day. Grace would always remember the day that she met President Abraham Lincoln.

The End



The Homestead Act

True Book Vocabulary



This puzzle was made by Homestead National Monument of America using Crossword Weaver(TM)

ACROSS

- 1 areas of land on which some American Indians were forced to live
- 5 a large grassy area with few trees
- 7 long periods of very dry weather
- 8 sod houses made of dirt and grass bricks cut from the soil
- 9 women whose husbands have died
- 10 to develop or improve the land

DOWN

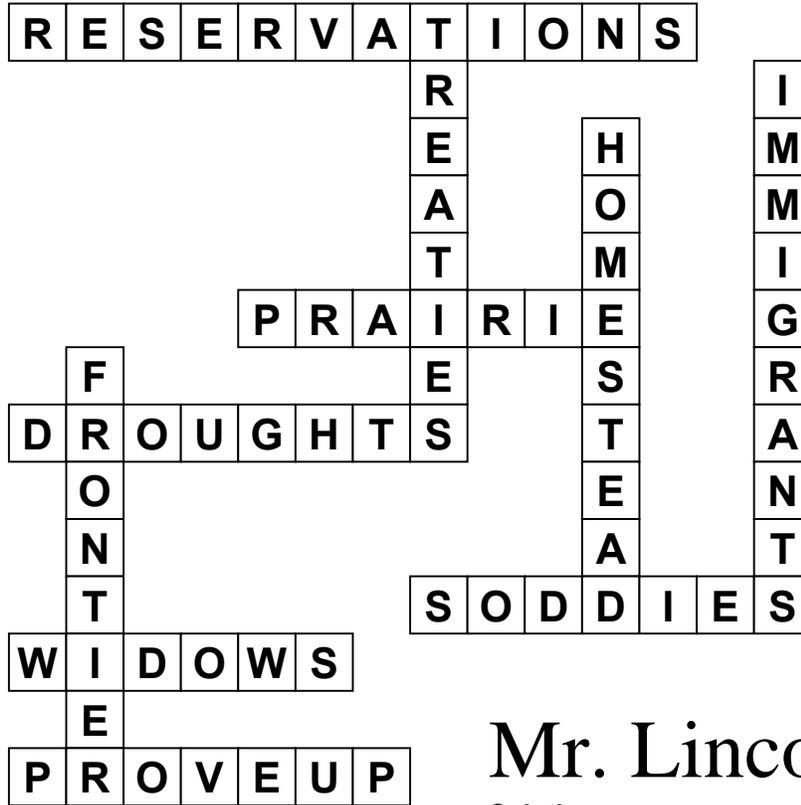
- 2 formal agreements between groups, such as the United States government and Indian nations
- 3 people who come to a new country to live there permanently
- 4 a piece of land given by the government to a settler
- 6 the edge of an area that is still largely unsettled by people

WORD BANK: Droughts, frontier, homestead, immigrants, prairie, proveup, reservations, soddies, treaties, widows.

The Homestead Act

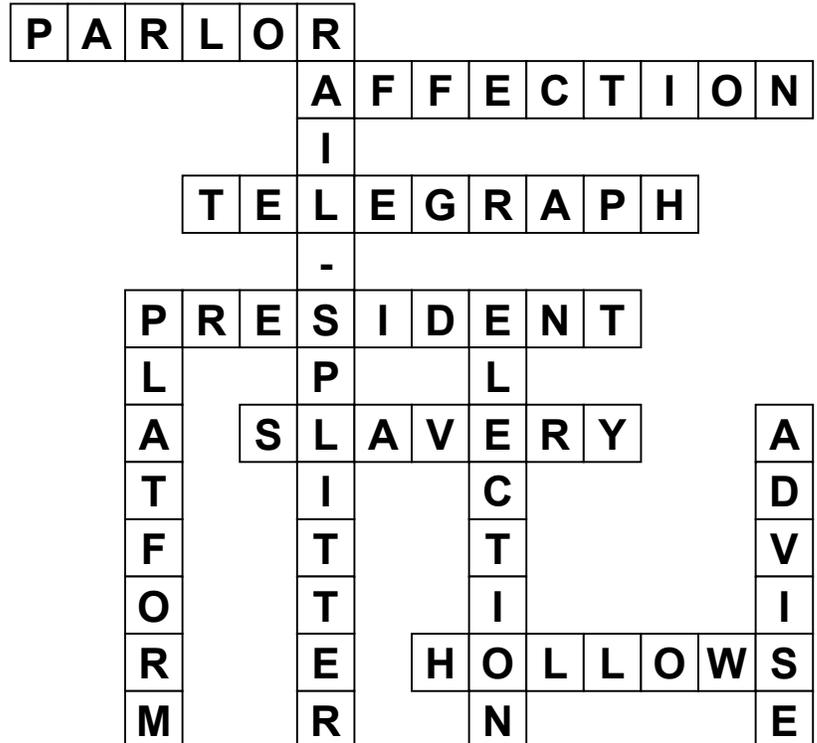
True Book Vocabulary

Solution:

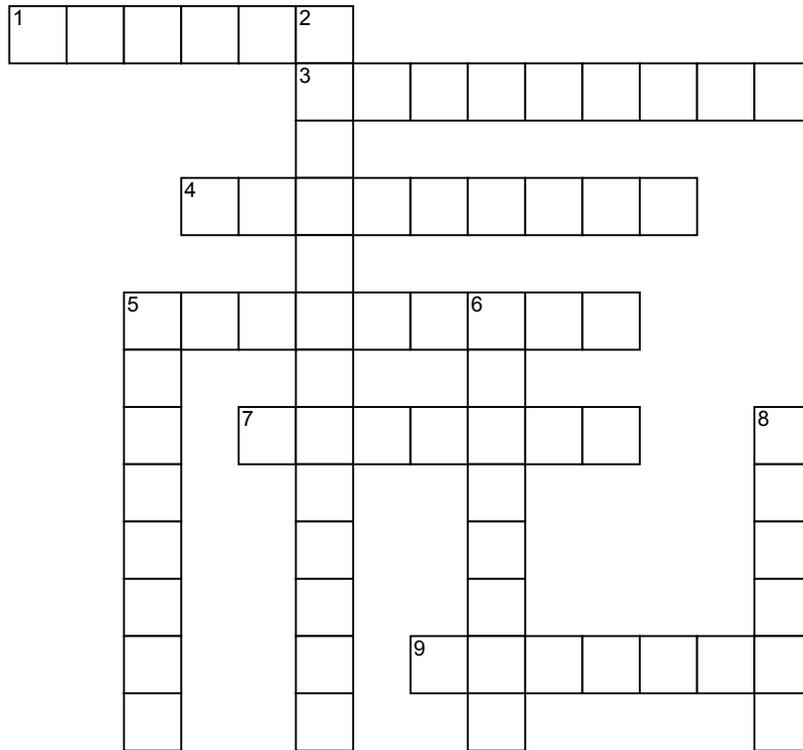


Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers

Solution:



Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers



This puzzle was made by Homestead National Monument of America using Crossword Weaver(TM)

ACROSS

- 1 a room used primarily for conversation or the reception of guests
- 3 the act of taking on or displaying an attitude or mode of behavior not natural to oneself or not genuinely felt
- 4 an apparatus, system, or process for communication at a distance by electric transmission over wire
- 5 the title given to the chief executive officer of a republic, such as the United States of America
- 7 the practice of holding people against their will and making them work without pay
- 9 depressed or low part of a surface

DOWN

- 2 one that makes logs into fence rails
- 5 an usually raised horizontal flat surface; especially: a raised flooring
- 6 the act or process of selecting by vote for an office, position, or membership
- 8 recommend

WORD BANK: Advise, affection, election, hollows, parlor, platform, president, rail-splitter, slavery, telegraph.

A Short Biography for Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States of America. He was born on February 12, 1809 in a log cabin near Hodgeville, Kentucky. His parents' names were Thomas and Nancy Lincoln. The Lincolns lived on the farm where Abraham was born for two years.

Abraham helped his father build a log cabin in 1817, when he was 8 years old, after his family moved across the Ohio River into Indiana.

Abraham loved to read, but books were hard to find on the Indiana frontier, so he would walk several miles just to borrow one. Abraham would read whenever he could, even while he rested from plowing the fields.

Abraham's mother, Nancy, died in 1818. He was 9 years old. His father, Thomas, married Sarah Johnston Lincoln the next year.

In 1828 Abraham was 19 years old. He helped take a flatbed down the Ohio River to New Orleans. Abraham saw slaves being sold in the marketplace for the first time there and would work to end slavery for the rest of his life.

In 1836 Abraham became a lawyer and practiced law in Springfield, Illinois. To keep his important papers handy, Abraham would tuck them into his tall black hat.

In November of 1842 Abraham married a lively girl from Kentucky named Mary Todd. He was 33 years old. Abraham and his wife had four sons. Their names were Robert, Edward, William and Thomas. Edward died at age 4.

Lincoln believed that the United States stood for freedom for all and wanted to become a United States Senator. In 1858 he debated Stephen Douglas, who was also a candidate for the Senate from Illinois. The two men made speeches in seven cities, debating the issue of slavery.

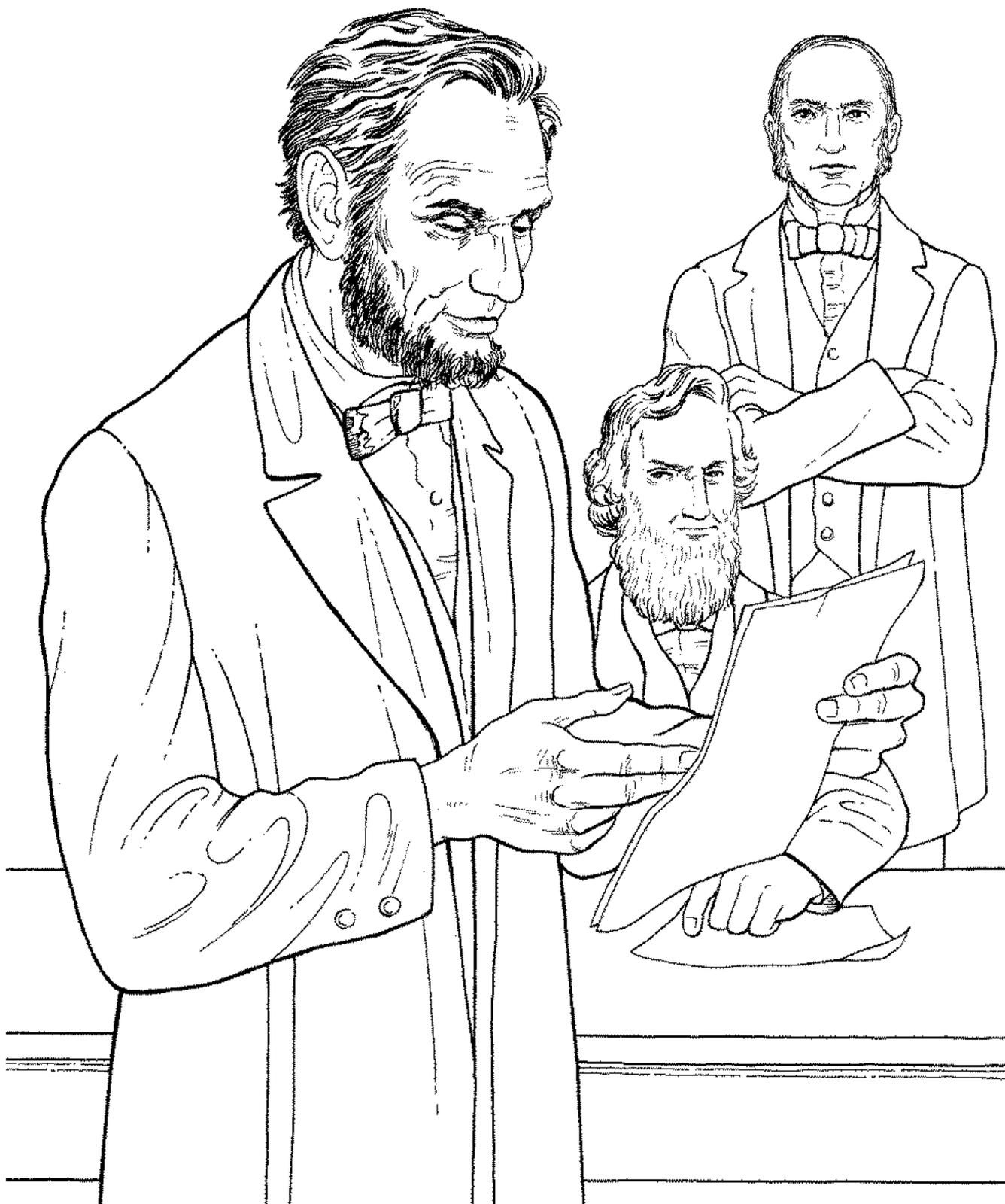
Many people in the country owned slaves at that time. There were also many Americans who thought slavery was wrong. Lincoln worked hard to end slavery and made powerful speeches to spread his ideas. Lincoln lost his bid to become a United States Senator to Douglas.

Lincoln then ran for President in 1860, against Douglas and two other people. Lincoln took the oath of office to become President of the United States on March 4, 1861. It was a difficult time to be president because many southern states who did not agree with Lincoln about slavery, seceded, which meant they declared that they were not a part of the United States.

The Civil War began in April, 1861. The Union army fought the Southern Confederate armies. Many soldiers were hurt and killed in the battles. One such battle was in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Lincoln made his famous speech, The Gettysburg Address, at the dedication of a cemetery on the Gettysburg battlefield.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln attended a play at Ford's Theatre. A shot rang through the crowded theater. John Wilkes Booth had shot the President! President Lincoln died on the morning of April 15th.

Abraham Lincoln Coloring Page





Lincoln Memorial Coloring Page

The Life of Abraham Lincoln

