



# Abraham Informational Text Reading comprehension Series AND CRITICAL THOUGHT Activities

For Grades 5 – 8  
12 Passages and Question Sets  
114 Critical-Thought and Multiple-Choice Questions  
15 Fun, Thought-Provoking Lincoln Activities  
Integrated Social Studies and Language Arts  
Perfect for Interactive Notebooks  
Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

**MR. NUSSBAUM**  
LEARNING + FUN

## ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Abe Lincoln Childhood	A, B, A, A, C, D, C, D, B, D
Abe Lincoln Middle Years 1	B, C, ABC, D, B, B, A, D, D, C
Abe Lincoln Middle Years 2	C, A, B, C, A, C, C, C, D, A
Abe Lincoln Middle Years 3	B, B, D, D, B, A, B, A, C, C
Abe Lincoln Presidential Years 1	A, D, A, D, A, C, B, B, C, B
Abe Lincoln Presidential Years 2	B, B, B, D, B, C, D, B, D, B
Abe Lincoln Presidential Years 3	D, A, D, A, A, B, A, D, C, C
Abe Lincoln Presidential Years 4	B, C, A, B, C, A, B, B, D, A
Mary Todd Lincoln	D, ABC, A, C, B, A, C, C, D, D
Lincoln-Douglas Debates	B, B, ABD, D, A, C, A
Dr. Samuel Mudd	D, C, C, C, A, B, C
Ms. Laura Keene	D, D, A, B, C, B, C

## Terms of Use

This bundle is the property of Nussbaum Education Network, LLC. You may use the exercises within this bundle with your students or children. These exercises may be used in the classroom or distributed for homework. You may not re-publish this bundle or activities within these bundles, post them online, re-sell them, or use them in standardized tests. Any other uses not mentioned here are prohibited without consent from the Nussbaum Education Network, LLC .

For licensing inquiries regarding this bundle, or any other works from Nussbaum Education Network, LLC, please e-mail us at:

[mrnussbaumcom@gmail.com](mailto:mrnussbaumcom@gmail.com), or, visit our website at  
<https://mrnussbaum.com>

## **LINCOLN'S CHILDHOOD** Reading Comprehension

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky, to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln in their one-room log cabin on their farm known as Sinking Spring (near modern-day Hodgenville, Kentucky). Although Thomas lacked formal education, he was an excellent farmer and carpenter and oftentimes served as a member of the jury. Thomas and Nancy joined a small Baptist church in the area that had broken away from the larger church over the issue of slavery.

When Abe was two, the family moved to nearby Knob Creek Farm, where Abe's first memories of his childhood were formed. Because of difficulties his father had with the title to the farm, Thomas Lincoln moved his family to Pigeon Creek, Indiana, in 1816, where the seven-year-old Abraham helped him build a log cabin in the woods. Two years later, Nancy died of "milk sickness." Milk sickness is a rare disease caused by drinking the milk or consuming the meat of a cow that had fed on poisonous roots. In 1819, however, Thomas married Sarah Bush Johnston, whom Abraham would call "Mother." Sarah was a kind and warm woman who brought her three children, Matilda, Elizabeth, and John, to the Lincoln homestead to live with Abraham and his sister.

From an early age, Sarah recognized Abraham's quick wit and intellect and encouraged him to read. Abraham became an avid reader, gobbling up any book he could get his hands on from neighbors, clergymen, and traveling teachers. Abraham attended school on an inconsistent basis. At times, traveling teachers may have taught at a nearby rudimentary schoolhouse, and at other times Abraham walked several miles to the nearest school. Lincoln himself admitted that the total amount of schooling he received in his childhood was no more than twelve months; nevertheless, he became an excellent reader, learned to write, measure, and make division and multiplication calculations. Abraham took his studies very seriously. Without paper in the house to practice his writing and math, he often did arithmetic on the back of a wooden spoon using charcoal as a makeshift pencil. Lincoln described where he grew up and the opportunities for education in the following quote:

*"It was," he once wrote, "a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so-called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin', and cipherin'" to the Rule of Three. If a straggler supposed to understand Latin happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard."*

Abe's growing desire to attend school conflicted with his father's demands on him, which often made him appear lazy to his neighbors. His father often rented him out to perform manual labor tasks such as shucking corn, hoeing, gathering, and plowing. During the early 1800s, Abe's father was entitled to all of the money earned as a result of his son's labor. Abe's considerable strength was evident with his unusual skill and power with an axe. Abe was said to be able to chop more wood and split more rails than anyone around. Far larger and stronger than the other boys in the region, Abe could outrun and outwrestle all of them. Unlike most boys of his time, however, Abe avoided hunting because he took no pleasure in killing animals.

Although Abe gained a reputation as a prankster and for his storytelling abilities, he also gained a reputation for honesty. When he was nineteen years old, he was hired to co-steer a flatboat down the Mississippi River to unload produce to be sold at the plantations in the South and to return with the money earned. For these services, Abe was paid eight dollars a month. More importantly, these forays into the South opened Abe's eyes to the world beyond the Indiana frontier and likely began to shape his views toward the horrors of slavery as he witnessed the auctions and treatment of slaves firsthand.

**1.) What did Abraham's father do for a living?**

- a.) He was a farmer.
- b.) He was a teacher.
- c.) He was a doctor.
- d.) He was a judge.

**2.) Why did the Lincoln family decide to join a new church?**

- a.) The passage doesn't say.
- b.) Over the issue of slavery.
- c.) They became more religious.
- d.) They wanted to be in a smaller church.

**3.) Where did Abraham live when he was 7?**

- a.) Indiana
- b.) Sinking Spring Farm
- c.) Kentucky
- d.) Illinois

**4.) What word or phrase would NOT describe Sarah Bush Johnston?**

- a.) dishonest
- b.) kind
- c.) nurturing
- d.) caring

**5.) How long did Abraham Lincoln go to school for?**

- a.) Never
- b.) His whole life
- c.) About one year
- d.) Two years

**6.) What did Abraham Lincoln use to write his arithmetic?**

- a.) wooden spoon
- b.) his arm
- c.) pencil
- d.) Charcoal

**7.) What do you think "cipherin" is closest to in the following quote:**

"It was," he once wrote, "a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so-called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin', and cipherin'" to the Rule of Three. If a straggler supposed to understand Latin happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard."

- a.) writing
- b.) reading
- c.) math
- d.) planning

**8.) Which of the following was Abe NOT rented out by his father to do?**

- a.) gathering
- b.) hoeing
- c.) plowing
- d.) shoveling

**9.) Which of the following was NOT true about Abraham Lincoln?**

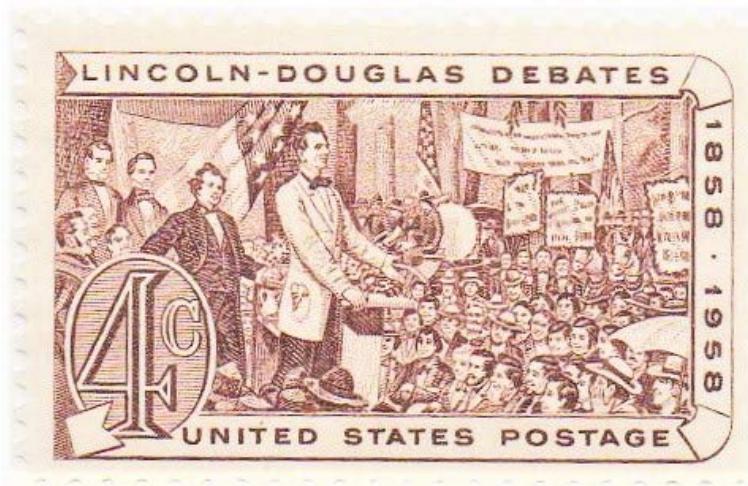
- a.) He was the strongest and fastest boy around.
- b.) He gained a reputation for dishonesty.
- c.) He was a prankster.
- d.) He sometimes appeared lazy to others.

**10.) Why did Abraham Lincoln refrain from hunting?**

- a.) His family didn't need him to hunt.
- b.) His family didn't own a gun.
- c.) He was a terrible shot.
- d.) He didn't like killing animals.

**The Lincoln-Douglas Debates**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas engaged in a series of seven debates in the congressional districts of Illinois over the issue of slavery. Both were vying for the Illinois Senate seat to be elected by the state legislature. Lincoln was an anti-slavery Republican and Douglas, nicknamed the "Little Giant" for his small stature but powerful voice, was the pro-slavery Democrat. Although Douglas would ultimately win the Senate, the debates helped propel Lincoln to national prominence.

The major theme of the debate was the extension of slavery into new territories. In 1854, the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (authored by Douglas) allowed for popular sovereignty in the new territories. Popular sovereignty meant that residents of a state or territory could vote whether to allow slavery.

Throughout the seven debates, Douglas claimed that Lincoln was a "dangerous radical" for his stance against popular sovereignty. He frequently referenced Lincoln's famous Republican nomination speech in which he claimed "a government cannot permanently endure half slave, half free," in accusing him of threatening the stability of the nation.

Lincoln attacked the "monstrous injustice" of slavery and referenced the murderous events in Kansas as evidence that popular sovereignty was harmful to the nation. He claimed that "the crisis would be reached and passed when slavery was put in the course of ultimate extinction." Despite his stance against slavery, the debates revealed that Lincoln did not necessarily consider Blacks his equal. He denied he was an abolitionist in saying "And in as much as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

Despite winning the popular vote for the senate seat by more than 30,000 votes, it was Douglas who prevailed because he won the electoral vote. During the debates, however, Lincoln's tough questioning of Douglas caused a split in Democratic Party resulting in Lincoln's victory over Douglas in the Presidential Election of 1860.

**1. In 1858, Lincoln and Douglas...**

- A. were hoping to become the next president.
- B. were hoping to become senator.
- C. were hoping to end slavery.
- D. were against popular sovereignty.

**2. Despite his setback against Douglas, Lincoln...**

- A. became senator of Illinois.
- B. rose to national prominence.
- C. won the Lincoln-Douglas debates.
- D. became president in 1858.

**3. Circle all of the following that ARE NOT true.**

- A. Lincoln believed slavery should end and claimed that he was abolitionist
- B. Lincoln believed that slavery should end and all races were equal
- C. Douglas believed in popular sovereignty and that Lincoln was a radical
- D. Douglas and Lincoln agreed on popular sovereignty

**4. Which of the following best defines Lincoln's quote as used below?**

... "a government cannot permanently endure half slave, half free."

- A. The government will succeed if both sides agree to be half slave, half free
- B. Good governments do not last forever
- C. A government will fail if it continues to allow slavery
- D. A government will fail if there are two sides that are not united

**5. What does the author seem surprised about?**

- A. That Lincoln did not consider Blacks to be equal to whites
- B. That Stephen A. Douglas won the electoral vote for the senate
- C. That Stephen A. Douglas was called "the Little Giant"
- D. That Lincoln considered slavery to be an injustice

**6. For which of the following questions would "residents of the state vote on whether or not to allow slavery."**

- A. What was the major theme of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates?
- B. Why did Douglas refer to Lincoln as a dangerous radical?
- C. What is popular sovereignty?
- D. What was Lincoln's stance on popular sovereignty?

**7. What was an effect of the Lincoln Douglas debate?**

- A. The split in the Democratic Party
- B. Lincoln won the popular vote by more than 30,000 votes
- C. The stability of the nation was threatened
- D. Lincoln would eventually become Senator

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – THE MIDDLE YEARS (Part 1)**

In 1830, Abe's father moved the family to Illinois following fears of another milk sickness outbreak. After enduring several plagues and one of the worst winters on record, Abe decided to leave his father's homestead and set off on his own at the age of 22. Abe's experience, intelligence, and ingenuity would serve him well. His first job required him to steer a flatboat from Illinois to New Orleans, Louisiana. After leading the construction of the flatboat with two other boys, Abe gained notoriety from the residents of New Salem when he figured out how to float the stuck flatboat over Rutledge's Dam by drilling a hole in the bottom of the boat. After successfully unloading the goods in New Orleans, Abe took a steamer to St. Louis and walked home the remainder of the way. The owner of the flatboat was so impressed with Abe, he hired him to work as a clerk in his store in New Salem.

In New Salem, Abe made many friends, mastered grammar, and gained a reputation as a master storyteller. In August of 1832, he decided to become a candidate for one of four representatives of Sangamon County in the Illinois legislature, despite being a resident in the county for only nine months. His campaign platform centered on improvements to the navigation of the Sangamon River he would initiate. During this time, however, Lincoln was made captain of a company of men from New Salem to volunteer their service in the Black Hawk War. The company would become the Fourth Illinois Mounted Volunteers. Lincoln himself served for about three months in the frontier of Illinois but was never engaged in any real combat. When he returned to New Salem, it was election time. By this time, however, there were thirteen candidates, and he finished eighth on the ballot (though over 90 percent of the residents of New Salem voted for him). Discouraged, Abe decided to enter a partnership to purchase the store he clerked at on credit. Thinking that New Salem was an up-and-coming town, Lincoln believed the purchase would earn him great profits. Unfortunately, his partner abandoned him, subsequent attempts to sell the store were unsuccessful, and Lincoln was saddled with a debt that would take him seventeen years to pay off.

### **Abe Enters Politics**

On May 7, 1833, Abe was appointed postmaster of New Salem. As the population of New Salem declined over the next few years, it became too small for a post office and Abe was out of a job. That same year, Lincoln was hired to survey new lands acquired by Sangamon County, despite the fact he had no training as a surveyor. According to legend, it took Abe only six weeks to learn the trade, and from that point on he was considered an excellent surveyor. In 1834, Abe would campaign again for representative in the Illinois state legislature. Now that he was well-known in a larger portion of Sangamon County, Abe traveled from village to village giving speeches, attending shooting matches, horse races, and other community events. Again, there were thirteen candidates, but this time Abe won.

**1.) Why did Abe's father move them to Illinois?**

- a.) There was better farming in Illinois.
- b.) He was afraid milk sickness would strike again.
- c.) Abe's grandparents lived in Illinois.
- d.) There was more opportunity in Illinois.

**2.) How did Abe Lincoln gain notoriety among the people of New Salem, Illinois?**

- a.) They thought he was very funny.
- b.) He was on his way to New Orleans.
- c.) He figured out how to steer a stuck flatboat over a dam.
- d.) He was steering a flatboat at age 19.

**3.) In New Salem, Abe... (select all that apply)**

- a.) mastered grammar
- b.) gained a reputation as a master storyteller
- c.) made a lot of friends
- d.) ran for president

**4.) Which of the following statements best describes Abe's experience in the election for the Illinois legislature?**

- a.) A total failure
- b.) A partial success; he gained most of the votes in Sangamon County, but failed to get enough votes in New Salem.
- c.) A total success
- d.) A partial success; he gained most of the votes in New Salem, but failed to get enough votes in other parts of Sangamon County.

**5.) Abe was the captain of a group of men who "volunteered" to serve in the Black Hawk War. What is a volunteer in this context?**

- a.) Someone who would pay to go to war.
- b.) Someone who goes to war and does not expect to be paid.
- c.) Someone who goes to war and expects to be paid.
- d.) Someone who goes to war.

**6.) Why did Abe decide to purchase a store in New Salem?**

- a.) He liked his partners.
- b.) He thought it would earn him a lot of money.
- c.) He thought he needed business experience.
- d.) He was bored.

**7.) Why did Abe lose his job as postmaster of New Salem?**

- a.) The population of New Salem was too small to justify having a post office.
- b.) New Salem didn't like the way Abe represented them.
- c.) Abe became an Illinois state representative.
- d.) Abe decided to enter politics.

**8.) What happened first?**

- a.) Abe became postmaster of New Salem.
- b.) Abe became surveyor of Sangamon County.
- c.) Abe wins the election for Illinois representative.
- d.) 1832

**9.) Which of the following did Abe NOT do as he campaigned for Illinois state representative?**

- a.) Went to shooting matches
- b.) Traveled to different villages
- c.) Went to horse races
- d.) Traveled to different states

**10.) Why do you think Abe won the second election?**

- a.) Because he had more money.
- b.) There were no other good candidates.
- c.) Because he campaigned throughout the county and met a lot of people.
- d.) It was just good luck.

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Middle Years (Part 2)**

### **Illinois Legislature**

Abe became an influential force of the Whig Party in the Illinois legislature and was reelected in 1836, 1838, and 1840. During this time, the issue of slavery became more and more contentious in Illinois and many other states. In 1837, Lincoln first spoke publicly to the legislature concerning his views on slavery when it passed a set of resolutions against abolitionist (anti-slavery) groups. Although Illinois was a free state at the time, it had many people who supported slavery, especially in its southern portions. In addressing the legislature, Abe opposed the resolutions and asserted that he believed slavery was an evil institution. Despite his feelings against slavery, Lincoln admitted he did not think the time was right to free all of the slaves.

### **Abe Earns his Law License**

In 1836, Lincoln endeavored to study law. Not surprisingly, by the end of 1836, he was admitted to the Illinois state bar and obtained his license to practice. The next year he moved to Springfield, where he was already popular with the city's residents for his efforts to get the state capital moved there from Vandalia. Despite the fact he had become a lawyer, Abe was still in debt, had no money, and had no place to live. Sometime shortly after arriving in Springfield, Abe took up residence in the upstairs room above a store owned by Joshua Speed. Abe could not afford to pay the price for his own room, so Joshua offered to share his room. Abe, who was carrying all of his possessions in two saddlebags when he inquired about the price for a room, remarked, "Well, Speed, I am moved!" after setting his saddlebags on the floor of the room. Abe and Joshua quickly became inseparable and forged a lifelong friendship.

### **Joshua Speed**

Abe soon became a respected lawyer known for his honesty, wit, oratory, and hard work. In the 1830s, lawyers and lawmakers were expected to travel to circuit courts throughout the state, oftentimes covering great distances. Abe was assigned to what was called the Eighth Judicial Circuit. As a politician and lawyer, Abe would travel to such courts to explain to the people the meanings of the laws created in the legislatures that were being applied to the local cases. Abe endeared himself to the people with the anecdotes and stories he used to explain the difficult concepts to people in terms they could understand. Oftentimes, such educational "sessions" were held in the village tavern or meetinghouse, would include meals, and would last well into the night. It was at these "sessions" where Abe's legend was born and grew; where his stories, speeches, and explanations became legendary. Though poor, Abe was beginning to make a name for himself beyond the confines of New Salem or even Springfield.

**1.) Which of the following would be an accurate summary of Abraham Lincoln's views toward slavery?**

- a.) He thought the Southern economy needed it.
- b.) He thought all slaves should be freed immediately.
- c.) He thought it was evil, but that the time was wrong to free all of the slaves.
- d.) He thought it served a purpose.

**2.) Which of the following was true about Illinois?**

- a.) Many people in southern Illinois supported slavery.
- b.) It was considered an eastern state at the time.
- c.) Slavery was legal in Illinois.
- d.) Many people in northern Illinois supported slavery.

**3.) Why was Abe popular in Springfield before he moved there?**

- a.) He knew Joshua Speed.
- b.) As a legislator, he fought to get the state capital moved there.
- c.) He was an outstanding lawyer.
- d.) He lived in the largest house in town.

**4.) Which of the following was NOT true about Abe when he moved to Springfield?**

- a.) He took all of his possessions in two bags.
- b.) He was in a lot of debt.
- c.) He bought a small house.
- d.) He had no place to live.

**5.) Why did Abe have to travel great distances to practice law?**

- a.) Because he practiced in the circuit courts
- b.) He was in a lot of debt.
- c.) Because the people of Springfield did not trust he was a good lawyer
- d.) Because he was against slavery

**6.) Which of the following words probably DOES NOT describe Abraham Lincoln?**

- a.) witty
- b.) funny
- c.) ferocious
- d.) humble

**7.) What happened first?**

- a.) Abe moved in with Joshua Speed.
- b.) Abe traveled the circuit courts.
- c.) Abe obtained his law license.
- d.) Abe moved to Springfield.

**8.) In the sentence, "Abe endeared himself to the people with the anecdotes and stories he used to explain the difficult concepts to people in terms they could understand."**

What does "endeared" mean?

- a.) begged
- b.) obtained goods
- c.) made people like him
- d.) made people feel sorry for him

**9.) Where was the "legend" of Abraham Lincoln born?**

- a.) In Springfield
- b.) In the courtroom
- c.) In Chicago
- d.) In village taverns and meetinghouses

**10.) Why did Abraham Lincoln use stories when discussing the law?**

- a.) They helped people relate to what he was saying.
- b.) They helped the people begin to make laws.
- c.) He wasn't a particularly serious man.
- d.) They helped him relax in front of big crowds.

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Middle Years (part 3)**

In December of 1839, Abe met Mary Todd, a “handsome” woman from a wealthy, slave-owning family from Lexington, Kentucky. Abe had been involved in two romances prior to Mary; one with Ann Rutledge, who died of typhoid, and another with Mary Owens, which ended abruptly. By 1840, however, Abe and Mary Todd became engaged. Unfortunately, their mutual affections failed to last and by 1841, the engagement was broken, plunging Abe into a deep depression that rendered him unable to attend to his business or his job. Mired in sadness, Lincoln went back to his boyhood home in Kentucky with his friend Joshua Speed, where he apparently recovered sufficiently to return to his life in Springfield. To this day, there is no historical record of why the pair decided to call off their engagement. In 1842, however, Abe and Mary had re-established relations and were married on November 4 of that year. Abe and Mary would have four children, two of which died in childhood. In 1844, Abe and Mary Todd bought their first house on the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets in Springfield.

### **Abe as Congressman**

Following his marriage, Abe’s interest in politics continued to influence the course he would take in life. Despite entering a law partnership with Judge Stephen Logan, Abe made several unsuccessful attempts to gain the Whig nomination for congressman in the 30th District of Illinois. In 1846, however, Abe was finally nominated and elected in August of that year. Abe served one two-year term in Washington and was the only Whig representative in the Democrat-dominated Illinois delegation. During his time as congressman, Abe spoke out against the Mexican-American War, attributing its cause to president James K. Polk’s desire for “military glory—that attractive rainbow that rises in showers of blood.” Lincoln believed the United States was waging an unprovoked war for the purposes of expanding its boundaries. This stance made him particularly unpopular, and Lincoln lost much of the political support he once enjoyed, and hence, was not reelected to Congress.

### **Back to Law**

After this stint as congressman, Lincoln returned to Springfield with a new vigor to practice law. He “rode the circuit” twice every year for ten weeks, practicing law in county seats throughout the state of Illinois. Many of his cases involved disputes which involved the operations of barges, drawbridges, and railroads. He would argue cases in front of the Illinois Supreme Court some 175 times, and even argued a case in front of the United States Supreme Court. Of the 51 cases in which he was the only lawyer for a particular client, 31 of the cases were decided in his favor. Abe, who called himself “the prairie lawyer,” took other kinds of cases as well, including those involving murder. In 1858, he successfully defended “Duff” Armstrong against charges of

homicide. One of the witnesses testified to seeing the murder committed in the moonlight. Abe proceeded to consult his copy of the Farmer's Almanac, which showed the moon at the time was at a low angle, reducing visibility and making it highly unlikely anyone could witness a crime using moonlight alone. Armstrong was acquitted. At this point, Abe was one of the foremost lawyers in the state of Illinois. Abe, however believed he lacked the logic, reasoning, and mathematical skills needed to be an elite lawyer and dedicated himself to intensive late-night readings until he felt he had improved himself with respect to those subjects. As the issue of slavery continued to strain relations between the North and the South and with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, which opened up the new territories to the possibility of slavery, Abe returned to politics.

### **Abe Speaks out Against Slavery**

On October 16, 1854, Abe issued his famous "Peoria Speech" in which he condemned the institution of slavery, declaring,

*"I hate [slavery] because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world..."*

Later that year, Abe decided to run for the Illinois Senate seat as a Whig. The Whigs, at the time, were crumbling from the inside out. Differing opinions within the party concerning the Kansas-Nebraska Act threatened to tear the party in two, or to obliterate it all together. Consequently, Lincoln lost the nomination but became instrumental in the formation of a new party—the Republican Party. The Republican Party quickly gained influence and became a national political powerhouse by the time Lincoln would be elected president.

In 1857, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court Roger Taney ruled that blacks had no rights in America as citizens in the famous Dred Scott s. Sandford decision. The decision was a major blow to the abolitionists in the North and further polarized relations between the two parts of the country. Although Lincoln spoke out against the decision, he affirmed the Court's right to issue such a decision. That same year, after his nomination by the Illinois Republican Party for the Senate, Abe delivered the immortal words,

*"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."*

**1.) Which of the following best describes Mary Todd Lincoln?**

- a.) She came from a poor family that believed in slavery.
- b.) She came from a rich family that believed in slavery.
- c.) She came from a rich family that did not believe in slavery.
- d.) She came from a poor family that did not believe in slavery.

**2.) What happened first?**

- a.) Abe and Mary bought their first house.
- b.) Abe first became engaged to Mary Todd.
- c.) 1841
- d.) Abe went back to Kentucky with Joshua Speed.

**3.) Why did Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd call off their first engagement?**

- a.) Mary had second thoughts.
- b.) Abe wasn't sure if he wanted to get married.
- c.) Abe was broke.
- d.) No one knows.

**4.) How many children did Abe and Mary Todd have?**

- a.) 1
- b.) 2
- c.) 3
- d.) 4

**5.) Why did Abraham Lincoln lose political support as congressman?**

- a.) He was more interested in his law practice.
- b.) He spoke out against the Mexican-American War.
- c.) He spoke out against slavery.
- d.) He supported President James K. Polk.

**6.) How would you describe the success of Abraham Lincoln in arguing cases in front of the Illinois Supreme Court?**

- a.) Somewhat successful
- b.) Always successful
- c.) Somewhat unsuccessful
- d.) Not very successful

**7.) Why did Abraham Lincoln call himself the "prairie lawyer"?**

- a.) He wanted to save the prairies from development.
- b.) He, himself, was from an area of the country that had a lot of prairies.
- c.) He specialized in prairie law.
- d.) No one really knows.

**8.) Why did Abraham Lincoln stay up late at night studying mathematics and logic?**

- a.) He thought he needed to practice those skills to become a better lawyer.
- b.) It was a hobby of his.
- c.) He wanted to be an astronomer.
- d.) He needed to master those subjects for an important trial.

**9.) Why did Abraham Lincoln return to politics?**

- a.) He wanted to become president.
- b.) He was sick of practicing law.
- c.) The issue of slavery was threatening the relationship between the North and South.
- d.) He had mastered mathematics and logic.

**10.) In the following sentence, what does "instrumental" mean?**

Lincoln lost the nomination but became **instrumental** in the formation of a new party—the Republican Party.

- a.) having to do with an instrument
- b.) slide
- c.) helped make happen
- d.) musical

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Presidential Years (part 1)**

### **Abe Lincoln Emerges**

Though Abe had a national reputation, the Republican nomination for president in the election of 1860 seemed elusive. Powerful Republicans William Seward from New York, Salmon P. Chase from Ohio, and Edward Bates from Missouri seemed to be the frontrunners. On February 27, 1860, however, Abe was invited to speak before a crowd of powerful Republicans at Cooper Union (a university) in New York City. Abe's anti-slavery speech, in which he claimed the Founding Fathers and authors of the Declaration of Independence would have prohibited the extension of slavery into new territories, left a lasting impression on the members of the audience and propelled him to legitimacy among the Republican candidates running for presidency. The powerful publisher Horace Greeley called it "One of the most happiest and most convincing political arguments ever made in this City... No man ever made such an impression on his first appeal to a New York audience." After the speech, Abe decided that he would at least make an attempt for the Republican nomination to the presidency. He assembled a team of devoted campaigners who called Lincoln "The Rail Candidate."

### **The Republican National Convention**

On May 9-10 of 1860, Abe and his team traveled to the Republican National Convention in Decatur, Illinois, where his savvy team of supporters worked the convention for endorsements. Seward and Chase, though powerful and well-known politicians, had created enough enemies over the years to prove vulnerable and had alienated parts of the Republican Party. Though Abe believed slavery was evil, his moderate (rather than radical) stance appealed to many, as did his support for the nation's internal improvements and protective tariff. Furthermore, Abe was extremely popular in the western states, and because the convention was in his home state, thousands of his supporters descended upon Decatur. While Seward led on the first and second ballots (though he didn't get enough votes to win), Lincoln won the nomination on the third ballot when the chairman of the Ohio Republican Delegation was convinced to shift his votes to Lincoln. Seward, who thought his nomination was assured, was crushed, and Chase couldn't even manage to draw full support from his home state of Ohio. Now that Abe had secured the Republican nomination for president, he had a chance to win the presidential election.

### **Abe is Elected the 16th President**

In 1860, the future of the United States was much in doubt. The issue of slavery, which had bitterly divided the nation, had also begun to divide political parties, making the presidential election very complicated. The

Democratic Party had been divided into the Northern Democratic Party and Southern Democratic Party. The Northern Democratic Party nominated Stephen Douglas for the presidency, while the Southern Democratic Party nominated John C. Breckenridge. The Constitutional Union Party nominated the former Tennessee Governor John Bell.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 33 states. Of the eleven Southern states that would eventually secede, only Virginia allowed Abe's name to be on their ballots. In Virginia, Abe received slightly over one percent of the popular vote. In the four slave states that would become Border States, Abe finished third or fourth. In New England, however, Abe won the popular vote in every county. The 81.8 percent voter turnout for the election of 1860 is the second-highest turnout in presidential election history. Now that Abe had been elected president, he had to appoint the members of his cabinet.

### **Choosing Advisors**

In thinking about his advisors, Abe wanted the brightest and most influential politicians available. For the two most important posts in his cabinet, he chose the two candidates that ran against him for the Republican nomination for president. He appointed William Seward as his secretary of state and Salmon P. Chase as his secretary of treasury. Both men would prove indispensable to the president in his dealings with the Civil War.

**1.) In the following sentence, what does "elusive" mean?**

Though Abe had a national reputation, the Republican nominee for president in the election of 1860 seemed elusive.

- a.) hard to get
- b.) impossible
- c.) possible
- d.) likely

**2.) How would you describe Horace Greeley's response to Lincoln's speech at Cooper Union?**

- a.) He thought it was inappropriate.
- b.) He agreed with parts of it.
- c.) He disagreed with it.
- d.) He strongly agreed with it.

**3.) Which of the following was probably NOT implied in Lincoln's speech at Cooper Union?**

- a.) The new territories should decide for themselves whether or not to allow slavery.
- b.) People of all races and colors should have liberty.
- c.) Slavery should not be allowed in America's new territories.
- d.) The Founding Fathers would have frowned on slavery.

**4.) Which of the following probably did NOT help Lincoln at the Republican National Convention?**

- a.) Other candidates had made enemies in the Republican Party.
- b.) The Republican National Convention was in his home state of Illinois.
- c.) His moderate stance on slavery.
- d.) He was the "Rail Candidate".

**5.) How did William Seward feel after the Republican National Convention?**

- a.) He was devastated.
- b.) He felt betrayed.
- c.) He felt happy for Abraham Lincoln.
- d.) He thought "the best man won."

**6.) What did winning the Republican nomination mean?**

- a.) He would be governor of Illinois.
- b.) He was assured, at least, of becoming vice president.
- c.) He would be the Republican nominee for president.
- d.) He would be president.

**7.) Which of the following is NOT true about the political parties in 1860?**

- a.) The Democratic Party had become two different parties.
- b.) The issue of slavery had brought them closer together.
- c.) The issue of slavery had produced major divides in the parties.
- d.) The Constitutional Union party nominated John Bell.

**8.) Which of the following statements best describes Abe's performance in the presidential election of 1860?**

- a.) His support was strongest in the Border States.
- b.) His support was strongest in the New England states.
- c.) Northern states and Southern states showed support for him.
- d.) He finished third or fourth in the Southern states.

**9.) Which of the following statements best describes the sentiments of voters in the election of 1860?**

- a.) They cared more in the Southern states.
- b.) They didn't seem to care very much.
- c.) They cared very much in the North and the South.
- d.) They cared more in the Northern states.

**10.) Why did Abe choose his opponents in the Republican National Convention as his cabinet advisors?**

- a.) He was bragging about his victory.
- b.) He wanted the smartest people advising him.
- c.) He was forced to by Congress.
- d.) He feared they would run against him again in the election of 1864.

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Presidential Years (part 2)**

### **Secession**

Following Abe's election, the state of South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860. Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and Georgia would secede in the following weeks. These states formed the Confederate States of America (CSA) and declared themselves an independent nation. Upon entering office, Abe was faced with the most pressing crisis in the history of the young nation.

Abe's road to the White House was not easy either. According to some accounts, he had to ride through Baltimore on a secret train in disguise to evade would-be assassins on his way to inauguration in Washington. After Abe's inauguration, the Confederacy continued to mobilize. It elected Jefferson Davis as president and set up its capital headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama. War was imminent.

### **War Begins**

As war approached, President Lincoln sent provisions to American forts that were now in Confederate territory, including Fort Sumter, near Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Secessionists in South Carolina considered this an act of war and began bombarding the fort on April 12, 1861. Union forces at Fort Sumter surrendered and thus, the American Civil War began. On April 15, Abe requested the mobilization of 75,000 troops from the states for the purposes of "preserving the Union." In the following days, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia seceded from the Union, refusing to mobilize against their Southern neighbors. The secession of Virginia, one of the most populous states in the country, was a major prize for the Confederacy. To reward it, the Confederate capital was moved from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond, Virginia.

### **Managing the War**

As Union troops descended from Massachusetts to the nation's capital, pro-secession residents of Baltimore, Maryland, attacked Union soldiers and destroyed railroads linking Washington to the North. In response, President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus in Maryland, allowing the government to arrest suspected perpetrators and keep them in jail indefinitely without a trial or conviction. He also authorized the blockades of Southern ports. During this difficult time, Abe was also suffering depression likely caused by the stresses of the war, the death of his son Willie, and the increasingly erratic behavior of his mourning wife.

Later in 1861, Abe endured an embarrassing and potentially dangerous episode when the British ship *Trent* was intercepted by the Union Navy in the Atlantic Ocean. Two Confederate agents on their way to England and France were seized and brought back to America as prisoners. Although the American public was in full support of the illegal seizure, England considered it an act of war. Eventually, Lincoln was compelled to release the Confederate agents to avert the British threat. Despite the demands of England, however, Abe never issued a formal apology, and hostilities between England and America died.

Abe had other things to worry about as well. Union forces had been routed in the war's first major battle at Manassas, just thirty miles west of Washington. This was a major blow to the morale of the North, which underestimated the resolve and fight of the Confederacy. After the devastation at Manassas, Abe realized the war would not end any time soon.

Throughout 1861 and much of 1862, Abe became dissatisfied with the progress of the war and turned his attention to leadership in the major branch of the Union Army, the Army of the Potomac. Early in 1862, Lincoln replaced War Secretary Simon Cameron with Edwin M. Stanton. Stanton would prove an excellent choice. His tireless work effort and superb managerial skills helped organize the massive military efforts of the Union.

**1.) Which of the following states did not secede from the Union?**

- a.) Florida
- b.) New York
- c.) Alabama
- d.) Mississippi

**2.) Why did Abraham Lincoln ride through Baltimore in disguise?**

- a.) There was no military support for him in Baltimore.
- b.) There were supposedly assassins waiting for his train in Baltimore.
- c.) He needed to get to Washington quickly.
- d.) He was afraid of large crowds.

**3.) What does "imminent" mean in the following paragraph?**

After Abe's inauguration, the Confederacy continued to mobilize. It elected Jefferson Davis as president and set up its capital headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama. War was imminent.

- a.) unlikely
- b.) definite
- c.) likely
- d.) possible

**4.) When did the Civil War begin?**

- a.) When the Southern states seceded
- b.) When Lincoln had to ride through Baltimore in disguise
- c.) At Lincoln's inauguration
- d.) When Fort Sumter was bombarded by the Confederacy

**5.) Why did North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia secede?**

- a.) They opposed slavery.
- b.) They refused to fight other Southern states.
- c.) There was no way out for those states.
- d.) They were angry about the bombardment of Fort Sumter.

**6.) Which of the following was NOT true about Baltimore, Maryland?**

- a.) Lincoln had to ride through the city in disguise to evade would-be assassins.
- b.) The city was full of pro-secessionists.
- c.) Baltimore was blockaded by the Union Navy.
- d.) Residents of the city attacked Massachusetts troops on their way to the Union capital, Washington.

**7.) Which of the following is a GOOD example of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus?**

- a.) Prisoners in jail get new trials.
- b.) Prisoners who were previously in jail are released.
- c.) Nobody can be arrested.
- d.) People become prisoners without a trial if they are suspected of committing crimes.

**8.) Which of the following WAS NOT a reason why President Lincoln was likely suffering from depression?**

- a.) His wife was in mourning.
- b.) He was embarrassed by what happened in Baltimore.
- c.) His son died.
- d.) The war was very stressful.

**9.) Why was England so angry about the seizure of the Confederate agents aboard the *Trent*?**

- a.) President Lincoln refused to apologize to them.
- b.) It started a war between England and France.
- c.) President Lincoln was unpopular in England.
- d.) They thought the Union did not have the right to seize agents traveling to their country on their boat.

**10.) What did the Battle of Manassas prove?**

- a.) The North would win the war.
- b.) The war would not be short.
- c.) The war would not be long.
- d.) The South would win the war.

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Presidential Years (part 3)**

### **Leadership in the Union Army**

After the First Battle of Bull Run, Lincoln had appointed West Point graduate General George McClellan as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan set his sights upon the capture of the Confederate capital of Richmond. In what he called the Peninsula Campaign, McClellan planned to move the huge army by boat to the Eastern Shore (Peninsula) of Virginia and then over land to Richmond itself. McClellan, however, took an inordinate amount of time planning and mobilizing the movements, and challenged the president's authority several times in the process. Furthermore, McClellan was slow to strike when he had the opportunities and always exaggerated the number of enemy troops waiting to engage his army.

On September 16, 1862, the Union Army scored a major victory at Sharpsburg, Maryland, in what came to be known as The Battle of Antietam. Antietam would prove to be the bloodiest one-day battle of the war. The battle forced the battered Confederate Army under General Robert E. Lee to cross the Potomac River back into Virginia and foiled Lee's attempt to carve a path of military victories in Union territory. Despite the urgings of the president and Congress, McClellan failed to order his army to pursue the fleeing Confederates, enabling them to regroup in their own territory. Lincoln, having had enough of McClellan's indecision and insubordination, replaced him as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Finding a suitable replacement, however, would prove no easy task. In fact, Lincoln went through several more commanders before settling on General Ulysses S. Grant.

### **The Slavery Issue**

From the time the war had started, Lincoln had wrestled with himself and members of his cabinet concerning the proper timing of emancipating slaves in the South. With the momentum of the war swinging back to the Union, and on the heels of the major victory at Antietam, Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, to be effective on January 1, 1863. The decree freed all slaves in "enemy territory." The proclamation, however, failed to address slavery in the Border States. Lincoln believed forcing the Border States of Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri to free their slaves would push them to join the Confederacy. Despite his failure to free slaves in the Border States, Lincoln believed that slavery would die as long as it did not extend into new territories.

Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln maintained his primary goal was not the liberation of slaves, but rather the preservation of the Union. In fact, Lincoln believed the best plan of action for the newly freed slaves was to set up a colony for them in Africa. Lincoln enjoyed little, if any, support for the plan, and by 1863 abandoned the idea. By the end of 1863, Lincoln had formulated a plan to recruit black soldiers to the Union Army in the belief that "the bare sight of 50,000 armed and drilled black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once."

### **Good News for the Union**

July of 1863 would prove a major turning point in the war. On July 3, the Army of Northern Virginia led by Robert E. Lee was repulsed at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in arguably the most storied battle in American history. The following day, on July 4, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant and Union forces took Vicksburg, Mississippi, after a long siege, gaining control of the Mississippi River for the Union Army and splitting the Confederacy into two separate parts. For Lincoln, control of the Mississippi River, its ports, and its navigation were one of the main objectives in eventual military victory.

**1.) Which of the following statements correctly describes George McClellan?**

- a.) An indecisive general who always struck quickly
- b.) A decisive general who always knew the size of an enemy force
- c.) A decisive general who failed to strike quickly but always knew the size of an enemy force
- d.) An indecisive general who failed to strike quickly and who exaggerated the size of an enemy force

**2.) The Battle of Antietam was...**

- a.) the bloodiest one-day battle in the war.
- b.) a battle that occurred in 1864.
- c.) a decisive victory for the Confederate Army.
- d.) the bloodiest battle in the war.

**3.) Why did Lincoln replace McClellan as General of the Army of the Potomac?**

- a.) He failed to pursue the fleeing Confederates.
- b.) He challenged the president's authority.
- c.) He was slow to strike.
- d.) All of the above

**4.) Why did Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation fail to free slaves in the Border States?**

- a.) He did not want those states to be persuaded to join the Confederacy.
- b.) Those states had no slaves.
- c.) Freeing those slaves would mean certain victory for the Confederacy.
- d.) Lincoln did not believe that slaves in those states deserved their freedom.

**5.) What was Lincoln's primary goal in the war?**

- a.) Preserve the nation
- b.) Punish the South
- c.) To free the slaves
- d.) Win the presidential election of 1864

**6.) Which of the following was NOT TRUE about Abraham Lincoln?**

- a.) He believed in allowing former slaves to become soldiers for the Union Army.
- b.) He thought slaves should not be allowed to become soldiers for the Union Army.
- c.) He thought, at least for some time, that freed slaves should be sent to a colony in Africa.
- d.) He believed slavery would die if it was not extended into the new territories.

**7.) Which of the following was NOT a reason why July of 1863 was a "turning point" for the Union Army?**

- a.) July 4th became a national holiday after the fall of Vicksburg.
- b.) The Union took Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- c.) The Union Army drove the Confederates from Northern soil at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- d.) The Union Army took control of the Mississippi River.

**8.) What happened first?**

- a.) The Battle of Gettysburg ended.
- b.) The slaves were actually freed.
- c.) July 4th
- d.) The Emancipation Proclamation

**9.) Which of the words in the following sentence means the act of "keeping together"?**

Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln maintained his primary goal was not the liberation of slaves, but rather the preservation of the Union.

- a.) primary
- b.) liberation
- c.) preservation
- d.) Proclamation

**10.) Which battle was arguably "the most storied" in American history?**

- a.) Vicksburg
- b.) Antietam
- c.) Bull Run
- d.) Gettysburg

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN – The Presidential Years (part 4)**

After the historic victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the situation had vastly improved for the Union, but the war was far from over. On November 22, 1863, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg. The 272-word speech, which followed a two-hour address by Harvard professor Edward Everett, would become one of the greatest speeches in American history.

In March of 1864, President Lincoln appointed General Ulysses S. Grant Commander of the Army of the Potomac, the main branch of the Union Army. Finally, after nearly three years of war, the president had found a general who would pursue fleeing Confederates. Grant, known as "Unconditional Surrender Grant" after his exploits at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, in 1862, was by this time a Union hero after leading the Army of the Tennessee to numerous victories in the West, including those at Shiloh and Vicksburg. Grant would spend 1864 waging his bloody Overland Campaign through much of the state of Virginia, suffering massive casualties while gradually diminishing the numbers and spirit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Eventually, Grant would corner Lee's Army at Petersburg, Virginia, where he staged a ten-month siege. During the siege, Lincoln would visit Grant's headquarters at City Point, outside of Petersburg, where his presence excited and inspired the Union soldiers.

Meanwhile, Union General William T. Sherman struck another blow to the spirit of the Confederacy with his destructive march through the state of Georgia, which would become known as Sherman's March to the Sea. Sherman's Army destroyed farms, railroad lines, and virtually anything in its path. After Sherman's capture of Atlanta, Georgia, President Lincoln easily won reelection to a second term. In contrast to his campaign platform in 1860, Lincoln made the emancipation of slaves a primary emphasis. Over 78 percent of Union soldiers would support his bid for a second term as president.

On April 9, 1865, the Confederate States of America surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The Civil War was over and the Union would be preserved. At this point, President Lincoln had to consider the complicated task of reconstructing the Union and how to reintegrate the Confederate states back into the United States.

Lincoln believed in a policy of forgiveness and took a moderate approach to Reconstruction, hoping to reconstruct the Union as quickly as possible rather than indefinitely punish the rebel states. Unfortunately, the president did not have much of a chance to preside over Reconstruction. Just five days after the end of the war, Southern sympathizer and actor John Wilkes Booth assassinated the president while he was watching a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC. Lincoln's bodyguard had abandoned his post, allowing Booth access to the presidential box. Lincoln died at 7:22 the next morning at the Peterson House across the street from the theater. Upon his death, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton uttered the timeless words, "Now, he belongs to the ages."

1.) After the Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the situation had \_\_\_\_\_ for the Confederacy.

- a.) remained the same
- b.) worsened
- c.) improved
- d.) become impossible

2.) When did President Lincoln give his Gettysburg Address?

- a.) After the war was over
- b.) During the Battle of Gettysburg
- c.) After the Battle of Gettysburg
- d.) Before the Battle of Gettysburg

3.) Which of the following was not true about Ulysses S. Grant?

- a.) He led the Confederacy to victories in the Overland Campaign.
- b.) He was known as "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.
- c.) He was the general President Lincoln was looking for since the war started.
- d.) He had led the Army of the Tennessee to many victories.

4.) How would you best describe Grant's Overland Campaign?

- a.) A campaign through Virginia in which Lee's Army of Northern Virginia defeated Grant.
- b.) A campaign through Virginia that caused many casualties and weakened the Confederate spirit.
- c.) A campaign through Virginia that caused many casualties but strengthened the Confederate spirit.
- d.) A campaign through Virginia that crushed the spirit of the Union.

5.) Which of the following was a major reason why President Lincoln was elected to a second term in 1864?

- a.) There were no other candidates who ran against him.
- b.) Because the South seemed to be winning the war.
- c.) After the capture of Atlanta, it seemed as if the war was coming to an end.
- d.) People were happy that the slaves were free.

6.) Which of the following describes how Union soldiers probably felt about President Lincoln?

- a.) Most liked him.
- b.) All disliked him.
- c.) Most disliked him.
- d.) All liked him.

7.) What did Lincoln think about the process of Reconstruction after the Civil War?

- a.) He believed the Southern states had to be punished.
- b.) He believed the Southern states would be readmitted to the Union as quickly as possible.
- c.) He believed that some states should return to the Union and others should not.
- d.) He believed the Southern states should never be allowed to be states.

8.) When was Abraham Lincoln assassinated?

- a.) Just days before the end of the Civil War.
- b.) Just days after the end of the Civil War.
- c.) 1864
- d.) During his first term as president.

**9.) Which of the following is NOT true?**

- a.) Lincoln died the morning after he had been shot.
- b.) Lincoln's bodyguard may have been asleep or not where he was supposed to be.
- c.) Lincoln died at the Petersen House.
- d.) Lincoln died at Ford's Theater.

**10.) What does the word "timeless" mean in the sentence below?**

Edwin M. Stanton uttered the timeless words "Now, he belongs to the ages."

- a.) always relevant
- b.) aspiring
- c.) taking a long time
- d.) irrelevant

## **MARY TODD LINCOLN** Reading Comprehension

Mary Todd Lincoln was born on December 13, 1818, in Lexington, Kentucky. She was born into a wealthy Kentucky family, though her mother died when she was seven. The following year, her father married Betsy Humphries. The family lived in a fourteen-room Kentucky mansion, which Mary shared with her fourteen brothers and sisters! Her father was close friends with Kentucky political leader, Henry Clay, who engendered a love of politics within Mary.

Like many young women of her day, Mary left school as a teenager to attend finishing school, where she studied drama, dance, music, social graces, and learned to speak French fluently. In 1839, Mary moved to Springfield, Illinois, to live with her sister, Elizabeth. While living in Illinois, Mary was courted by both Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, though it was Lincoln whom she would become engaged to. Despite the engagement, the pair broke up before becoming engaged again. They were finally married on November 4, 1842, at Mary's sister's home in Springfield. By marrying Lincoln, Mary Todd gave up a life of opulence for one of general poverty. Lincoln had not yet become a successful lawyer and was crushed by debt. Mary's family did not approve of Lincoln, citing his awkward appearance and humble upbringing.

Soon, however, Lincoln's reputation as a lawyer grew and the pair were able to purchase a house in Springfield. Mary would have four boys: Robert, Eddie, Tad, and Willie. Mary raised the children at home while Lincoln traveled to courts throughout the state to argue cases and explain the law.

In 1860, Mary and her children moved to the White House. By this time, her second son, Eddie had died. The transition was extremely difficult for Mrs. Lincoln. Her family grew up with slaves. Some of her brothers were fighting in the Confederate Army, and two had been killed in battle. Things took a turn for the worse for the Lincoln family in 1862, when her eleven-year-old son, Willie, died (probably of typhoid fever). Willie's death plunged Mary into a deep depression, which may have resulted in highly publicized public outbursts and incidences of irrational behavior. Mary further sought to ease her pain by traveling to New York City where she would take incredible shopping sprees, buying up the most expensive clothes, silks, and materials. New York merchants were happy to allow her to run up prodigious lines of credit that totaled, at least at one point, over \$27,000. Mary also dabbled in the supernatural and several times procured the services of spiritualists to try to contact her dead son, Willie.

Despite her outrageous behavior, which some historians attribute to bipolar disorder, Mary Todd frequently visited field hospitals for Union soldiers and often hosted lavish parties at the White House to maintain the aura and prestige of the house of the president.

On April 14, 1865, Mary was present at the assassination of her husband at Ford's Theater. Mary was inconsolable and soon returned to Illinois to recover. Her grief, however, would return with the death of her son, Tad, in 1871, and her behavior would become increasingly erratic over the course of the next few years. She would reportedly wander the streets of Chicago (while visiting her son Robert) with thousands of dollars in government bonds sewn into her jacket. She also continued to spend money lavishly on useless items and trinkets. In 1875, her sole surviving son, Robert, institutionalized his mother at a psychiatric hospital in Batavia, Illinois, where she apparently attempted suicide. By 1876, she was released to the custody of her sister, Elizabeth, in Springfield before embarking on a four-year trip traveling in Europe, where her health began to decline. In 1880, she returned to the Springfield home of her sister. She died on July 16, 1882, in Springfield at the age of 63.

**1.) Which of the following best describes the conditions in which Mary Todd grew up?**

- a.) Very poor
- b.) Somewhat wealthy
- c.) Somewhat poor
- d.) Very wealthy

**2.) Select all of the following subjects Mary studied at finishing school.**

- a.) French
- b.) Drama
- c.) Music
- d.) Astronomy

**3.) How did Mary's condition change when she married Abraham Lincoln?**

- a.) She became much less wealthy.
- b.) She gave away all of their possessions.
- c.) She became fabulously wealthy.
- d.) Her wealth remained about the same.

**4.) Which of the following WAS NOT a reason why Mary's transition to the White House was difficult?**

- a.) Her son Eddie had recently died.
- b.) Two of her brothers had been killed in the war.
- c.) Abraham Lincoln had become very sick.
- d.) She had grown up with slaves.

**5.) Why do you think Mary sometimes used the services of spiritualists?**

- a.) To try to cure Abe's depression
- b.) To talk to her dead son Willie
- c.) To find out her fortune
- d.) To find out when the war would end

**6.) What happened first?**

- a.) 1842
- b.) Mary transitioned to the White House.
- c.) The Civil War had begun.
- d.) Tad died of typhoid fever.

**7.) Why did Mary take shopping sprees in New York City?**

- a.) She needed nice clothes as the first lady.
- b.) Her husband made a lot of money, and she wanted to spend it.
- c.) She needed distractions from her depression.
- d.) She hated Washington.

**8.) Which of the following was NOT TRUE about Mary Todd?**

- a.) She visited hospitals to care for wounded soldiers.
- b.) She hosted lavish parties at the White House.
- c.) Her behavior seemed to improve over time.
- d.) She often had public outbursts.

**9.) Which of her sons lived the longest?**

- a.) Tad
- b.) Eddie
- c.) Willie
- d.) Robert

**10.) What does the word “erratic” mean in the following line:**

...her behavior would become increasingly erratic over the course of the next few years.

- a.) contained
- b.) hateful
- c.) pleasant
- d.) unpredictable



## Oh Captain! My Captain!

**Walt Whitman was a 19<sup>th</sup> century journalist and poet, most famous for his lyrical poems and verses describing nature. He was also a volunteer nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. Whitman penned the elegy (mourning poem) below in 1865 in honor of his hero, Abraham Lincoln.**

**Who is your hero or “Captain?” Read the poem below to get a sense of the anguish Walt Whitman felt upon learning of Lincoln’s assassination. Then, pen a short “Oh Captain! My Captain” poem about your hero. See the example on the second page.**

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weather’d every rack, the prize we sought is won,  
    The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;  
    But O heart! heart! heart!  
    O the bleeding drops of red,  
    Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
        Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,  
For you bouquets and ribbon’d wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,  
    For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;  
    Here Captain! dear father!  
    This arm beneath your head!  
    It is some dream that on the deck,  
        You’ve fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,  
The ship is anchor’d safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,  
    From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;  
    Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
    But I with mournful tread,  
    Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
        Fallen cold and dead.

Your Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Your poem does not have to be an elegy and probably should not be. It can be about his or her current life, accomplishments, or why your “captain” is special.

**EXAMPLE (Benjamin Franklin)**

**Oh Captain! My Captain! You wrote an almanac;  
You invented sayings, you printed papers, you traced our country's track;  
From Boston, Mass. to Paris, France, you stood up for our nation;  
In the war, you argued for, America's creation.**

**YOUR POEM**

**Oh Captain! My Captain! \_\_\_\_\_**

---

---

---

## Decoding Presidential Quotes

Decode the presidential quote. The letters to use correspond with their numerical order. For example, 6 would stand for “F.”

23	9	20	8						
13	1	12	9	3	5				
20	15	23	1	18	4				
14	15	14	5		23	9	20	8	
3	8	1	18	9	20	25			
6	15	18		1	12	12			

Who uttered this quote? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think it means?

Answers:

With Malice Toward None, With Charity For All was uttered by Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address in 1865. These words were uttered just a month and eleven days before his assassination.

The speech was given near the end of the American Civil War and the words above were meant to start the healing process between the Northern and Southern states. "With Malice Toward None, With Charity For All" means that no one deserved to be hated and everyone deserves kindness.



# I'll Always Remember Where I was

Following the Battle of Antietam, where Union forces halted the Confederate advance into the North, President Lincoln decided to issue a law that would permanently change America, and the world, forever. On September 22, 1862, Lincoln announced that all slaves in “enemy territory” would forever be free on January 1, 1863. The law, which became known as the Emancipation Proclamation, was certainly a turning point in the history of America, and would continue to influence and impact the nation for decades to come.

What news event in your life do you think has had the greatest impact on America, or, the world? Write your response below and explain why the event you chose was so meaningful. Explain how your event impacted your country, the world, or even you.



## Futility at the Top

In the years leading up to the American Civil War, Presidents Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan failed to stem the rising tide of secession. Both Pierce and Buchanan were Northerners who were known to be sympathetic to the “plight” of the South. The greatest conflict in the history of the United States was thus left in the lap of Abraham Lincoln.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical\\_rankings\\_of\\_Presidents\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_rankings_of_Presidents_of_the_United_States)

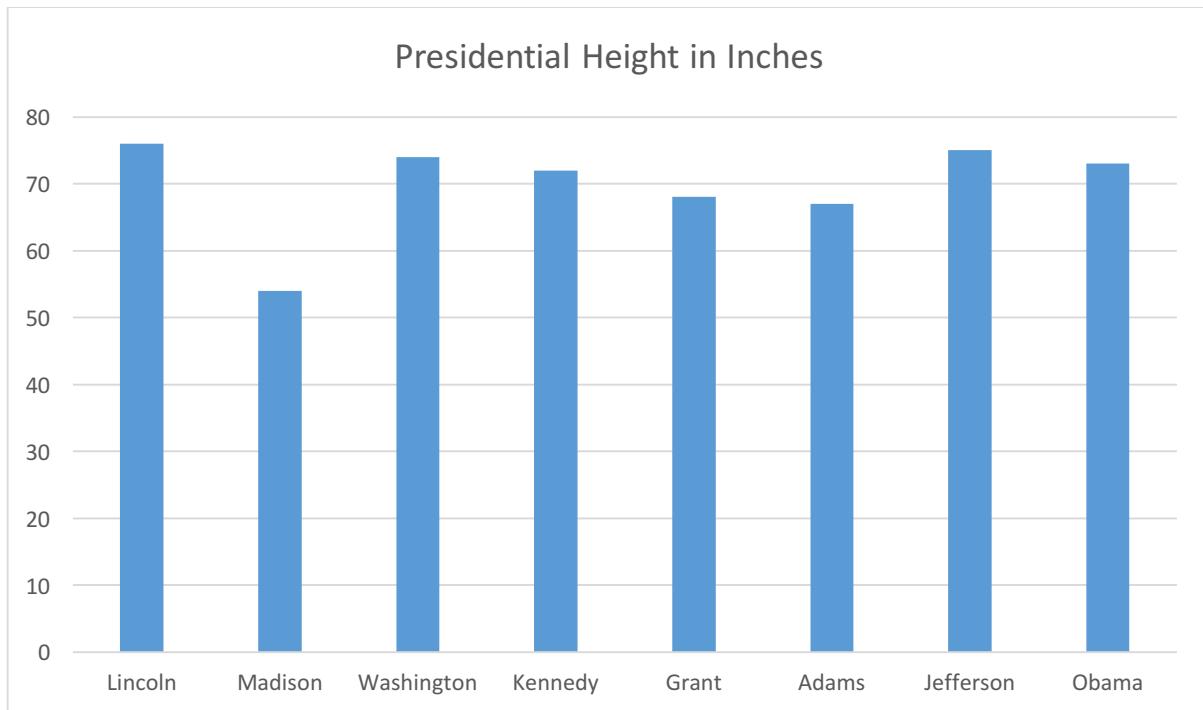
<b>Presidential Rankings</b>		
 Pierce – 14 <sup>th</sup> President	 Buchanan – 15 <sup>th</sup> President	 Lincoln – 16 <sup>th</sup> President
Ranking: 41/43	Ranking: 43/43	Ranking: 1/43

In the 1800's, two of the lowest ranked presidents (based on performance) were followed by the highest ranked president. What do you think were the main differences between the way Lincoln led the nation and his two predecessors? What is the difference between a great leader and a poor leader? Write your response on the lines provided. Use another page if necessary.

## Presidential Height – Histograms

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Can you answer the questions about presidential heights? Be ready to show off your conversion skills!



1. Who is the shortest president? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the tallest president? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which president is 6'0"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which president is 6'4"? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which president is 5'7"? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many inches taller was Lincoln than Madison? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which presidents were under 6'0"? \_\_\_\_\_

8. If Abraham Lincoln stood on top of George Washington's head, how tall would the two be combined?

Answers:

1. James Madison
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. John F. Kennedy
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. John Adams
6. 12 inches (1 foot) – 6'4" vs 5'4"
7. Grant, Madison, Adams
8. 150 inches – 12'6"

Illinois State Quarter



Laura Keene - Deep Thought

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Laura Keene was one of the most famous actors and stage managers of her time. She performed all over the world: in London, New York, California, and Australia. She achieved great financial success by starting her own theater in New York City. On October 15, 1858, *My American Cousin* debuted in Keene's theater. Keene had purchased the rights to the play, which was originally written by British playwright Tom Taylor. The story was a comedy about an American who must visit his English relatives to claim his inheritance. *My American Cousin* proved very popular – it was only scheduled to play for two weeks but instead, ran for 150 straight days.

Laura Keene, however, is best known for the events that occurred at Ford Theater's on the night of April 14, 1865, during the showing of *My American Cousin* in Washington, D.C. At 10:13 P.M., John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln, who had come to watch the play with his wife in celebration of the Union victory over the Confederate States of America in the American Civil War. Amidst the chaotic scene, Keene made her way through a labyrinth of passageways to the presidential box. She carried a pitcher of water, which served as her ticket inside. Sensing history was being made, Keene begged Dr. Charles Leale, who was attending to Lincoln, if she could see the dying president. Amazingly, Leale agreed. Keene proceeded to create a scene only an actor could imagine. Carefully, she cradled the president's head in her lap for several minutes. Keene's theatrics served no medical purpose whatsoever and ultimately served as a bizarre side note to one of the most tragic episodes in American history to that point. Keene cherished the colorful floral dress she wore that night, because the cuff bore bloodstains from the dying president. Over time, the dress was lost, but the cuff still exists today – complete with Lincoln's blood. It was donated to the National Museum of American History.

1. Why was Laura Keene admitted into the presidential box following the assassination?
2. Why do you feel that Keene felt a need to visit Lincoln after he was shot?
3. How did Keene's theatrical instincts take over?

This passage contains the following words. What do you think each word means? Write your definition and then use a dictionary or the internet to find the actual definition.

Word	Your Definition	Actual Definition
labyrinth		
chaotic		
cherished		

## Answers

1. She carried a pitcher of water with her.
2. Keene sensed that history was being made and realized she could play a part in it.
3. When Keene had entered the presidential box, she dramatized the scene by placing the dying president's head in her lap. It served no medical purpose whatsoever but she knew her actions would be remembered, in some way, for all of history.

## Vocabulary:

Labyrinth – maze

Chaotic – confusing, wild, and disorganized

Cherished – loved and treasured

## Abraham Lincoln – Letter to Fanny McCullough – Primary Source Text

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, December 23, 1862.

Dear Fanny

It is with deep grief that I learn of the death of your kind and brave Father; and, especially, that it is affecting your young heart beyond what is common in such cases. In this sad world of ours, sorrow comes to all; and, to the young, it comes with bitterest agony, because it takes them unawares. The older have learned to ever expect it. I am anxious to afford some alleviation of your present distress. Perfect relief is not possible, except with time. You can not now realize that you will ever feel better. Is not this so? And yet it is a mistake. You are sure to be happy again. To know this, which is certainly true, will make you some less miserable now. I have had experience enough to know what I say; and you need only to believe it, to feel better at once. The memory of your dear Father, instead of an agony, will yet be a sad sweet feeling in your heart, of a purer, and holier sort than you have known before.

Please present my kind regards to your afflicted mother.

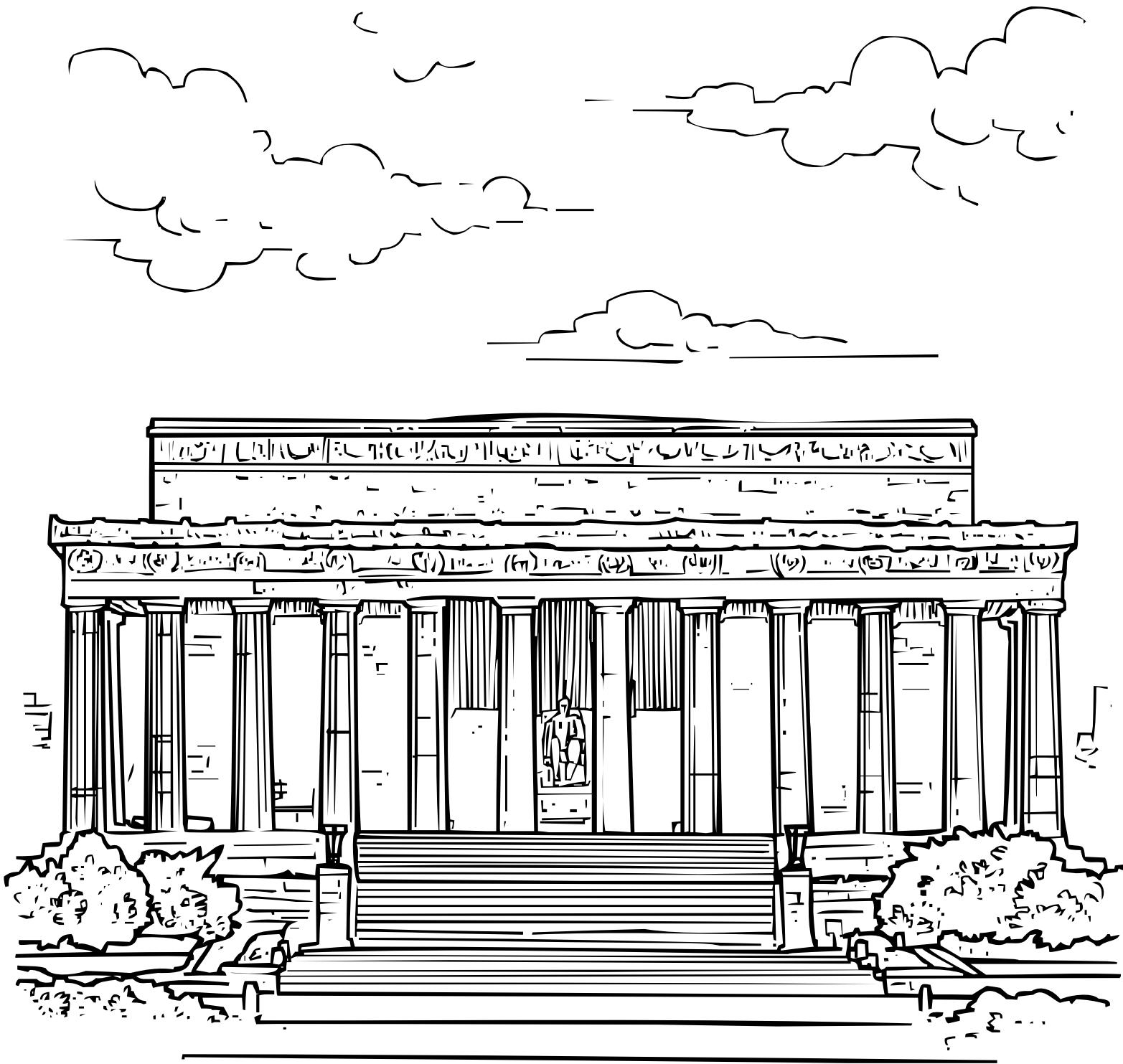
*Your sincere friend,  
A. Lincoln.*

Questions:

1. What does Abraham Lincoln mean when he writes, “I am anxious to afford some alleviation of your present distress”?
2. According to Lincoln, what will eventually cure Fanny’s sadness?
3. Why does Lincoln suggest that the death of a loved one is hardest on the young?
4. Do you think Lincoln’s letter made Fanny feel better? Why or why not?

## Answers:

1. This means that Lincoln is eager to make her feel better.
2. Time
3. Because young people don't expect or think about death; when it happens it comes suddenly and unexpectedly.
4. Answers will vary. Perhaps a letter from someone as important and famous as Abraham Lincoln would help her feel better, especially because he writes from the heart and relates to her directly. On the other hand, perhaps something as insignificant as a letter from a stranger (albeit a famous stranger) can make someone feel better after they've just learned of the death of their father.



Lincoln Memorial



## Abraham Lincoln's Dream

Just days before his death, Abraham Lincoln related a dream he had experienced:

"Determined to find the cause of a state of things so mysterious and so shocking, I kept on until I arrived at the East Room, which I entered. There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque, on which rested a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others weeping pitifully. 'Who is dead in the White House?' I demanded of one of the soldiers, 'The President,' was his answer; 'he was killed by an assassin.' Then came a loud burst of grief from the crowd, which woke me from my dream. I slept no more that night; and although it was only a dream, I have been strangely annoyed by it ever since."

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was indeed assassinated. To those who had heard Lincoln's description of his dream, the assassination was particularly eerie. Have you ever had a dream so vivid that you weren't sure it was just a dream when you woke up? Draw a picture below of a "scene" from that dream and do your best to explain it.

### My Dream

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

MR. NUSSBAUM

LEARNING + FUN

[www.mrnussbaum.com](http://www.mrnussbaum.com)



Mount Rushmore

## Deep Thoughts Questions – Dr. Samuel Mudd

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mudd was an American physician and farmer who lived near Bryantown, Maryland, during the American Civil War. Like many people who lived near Bryantown, Mudd was a slave owner who supported the Confederate States of America. In 1864, the state of Maryland abolished slavery, making the future of Mudd's tobacco plantation uncertain. That same year, Mudd was introduced to the actor John Wilkes Booth. Booth claimed he was interested in buying land in the region, but was really touring the area to map an escape route for his planned kidnapping of Abraham Lincoln. To what extent Mudd and Booth discussed the kidnapping plot is unclear. Historians do know that Booth stayed overnight at Mudd's farm and purchased a horse from him. Ultimately, the kidnapping plan failed to come into fruition. Booth and Mudd met again in Washington in late December of 1864 but the details of the meeting remain unknown as well.

On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. While managing a desperate escape from the theater, Booth broke his leg. Despite his injury, he was able to escape Washington that night and rode toward southern Maryland. One of his accomplices, David Herold, met Booth in the wilderness in an attempt to guide him to safety. When it became clear that Booth would be unable to continue without medical attention, Herold guided him to the house of Dr. Mudd. At 4:00 in the morning, they knocked on Mudd's door. Mudd recognized Booth but was likely unaware that he had just assassinated the president. Mudd diagnosed the broken fibula, fashioned a splint, and arranged for a pair of crutches to be delivered. Booth and Herold were extended hospitality and spent the remainder of the morning and much of the next day at Mudd's farm.

The next morning, Mudd rode into Bryantown, where he quickly learned news of Lincoln's assassination and the identity of the assassin. Unbelievably, Mudd found himself at crossroads of American history. He had two choices. He could tell the authorities in Bryantown that Lincoln's assassin was incapacitated at his farm less than five miles away, and thus, become one of America's great heroes. Or, he could say nothing and protect the assassin. Mudd's decision would have a major impact on his life and on the course of American history!

Mudd chose to protect Booth. Although there are conflicting accounts of what followed, Mudd probably calmly returned to his farm and demanded that both Booth and Herold leave immediately. It is thought that Mudd waited at least 24 hours to tell the authorities anything about his visitors. When he was finally questioned by the authorities, he may have also led them in the wrong direction in their quest to capture Booth. Mudd's explanations drew the suspicion of detectives, who continued to question him over the course of the next few days. Mudd initially claimed to never have met Booth before, but eventually it was revealed he had in fact met him several times.

On April 26, 1865, Dr. Samuel Mudd was arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder Abraham Lincoln. In this context, conspiracy means he was involved with the planning and execution of the murder and escape. On June 29, 1865, Mudd was sentenced to life in prison. He escaped the death penalty by a single vote.

In 1869, Mudd was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson for helping to stop an epidemic of yellow fever in prison. He was released from jail and returned to his farm near Bryantown. He died at the age of 49 from pneumonia. Mudd's conviction remain a source of controversy today.

## Questions

1. Describe Mudd's relationship with John Wilkes Booth.
2. Describe the decision that Dr. Mudd was forced to make. How did his decision impact his own life and American history?
3. How did detectives unravel Mudd's story?

This passage contains the following words. What do you think each word means? Write your definition and then use a dictionary or the internet to find the actual definition.

Word	Your Definition	Actual Definition
incapacitated		
conspiracy		
crossroads		

## Answers

1. The relationship between Mudd and Booth is unclear, although they certainly knew each other and may have done business together or discussed the kidnapping plot together.
2. Mudd was confronted with two scenarios: protect Booth from the authorities, or, turn him into the authorities. Choosing the first scenario would have made him a hero in the North (and ultimately in United States history), but Mudd was a slave owner and was thus against the North. Mudd chose to protect Booth which ultimately resulted in his arrest and near execution. It also resulted in additional time for Booth to execute and plan his escape.
3. Detectives unraveled Mudd's story because Mudd lied to them about knowing Booth. When authorities learned that Mudd lied, he was arrested.

## Vocabulary

Incapacitated – without strength; unable to move well or at all.

Conspiracy – a secret plan to commit a crime or misdeed.

Crossroads – a point in which an important decision must be made.

Famous Presidential Quotes Part 1 - Attribution Name \_\_\_\_\_

Match the quote with its correct president. Color the matching cells the same color.  
How many can you correctly identify?

Theodore Roosevelt	"And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."
Franklin D. Roosevelt	"... With malice toward none, with charity for all..."
John F. Kennedy	"Speak softly and carry a big stick."
Thomas Jefferson	"Character is the only secure foundation of state."
Abraham Lincoln	"The only thing to fear is fear itself."
George Washington	"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder"
Calvin Coolidge	"I have never advocated war except as a means for peace
Ulysses S. Grant	"One man with courage is a majority."

Read the presidential quotes. Which is your favorite? What do you think it means? One example has been done for you.

On January 20, 1861, John F. Kennedy uttered the famous words *"And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country..."* at his inaugural address.

Kennedy is urging the public to do what is right for the greater good, rather than what is best for the individual.

On the next page, choose a quote and describe what you think it means.

Presidential Quote:

Meaning:

Answers:

Theodore Roosevelt	“And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt	“... With malice toward none, with charity for all...”
John F. Kennedy	“Speak softly and carry a big stick.”
Thomas Jefferson	“Character is the only secure foundation of state.”
Abraham Lincoln	“The only thing to fear is fear itself.”
George Washington	“Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder”
Calvin Coolidge	“I have never advocated war except as a means for peace
Ulysses S. Grant	“One man with courage is a majority.”

## Mary Surratt - Deep Thought

Name \_\_\_\_\_

On July 7, 1865, Mary Surratt became the first woman in American history to be executed. Along with co-conspirators in the Lincoln assassination: Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt, Surratt was hung from the gallows at the Washington Arsenal. John Wilkes Booth, the mastermind behind the plot to murder Lincoln, Secretary of State William H. Seward, and Vice-president Andrew Johnson, had been hunted down and killed on April 26th. Surratt's guilt or knowledge in the plot has long been the subject of intense debate. Did she deserve to die?

### What do we know?

We know that Mary Surratt owned a boardinghouse in Washington, D.C., and that she was acquainted with John Wilkes Booth. In addition, in the days before the assassination, Booth gave her a package that contained binoculars and another that contained guns. Surratt delivered these packages to her Maryland boarding house and instructed Lloyd to prepare the "shooting irons" to be picked up. We also know that Surratt's son, Confederate spy John Surratt Jr., agreed to participate in an earlier plot that Booth devised to kidnap President Lincoln and bring him to Richmond. Mary probably knew her son was a spy, but to what extent she knew of either the plan to kidnap President Lincoln, or assassinate him, remains unclear. Additionally, we know that Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt, all stayed at or visited Surratt's boardinghouse in the days and weeks before the assassination. Finally, we know that Surratt lied to investigators about knowing Lewis Powell, who showed up at her boardinghouse following the assassination while she was being interrogated by investigators. She also told the investigators that her son had been in Canada for two weeks, as he was a focal point of the investigation. Despite her efforts to lie to protect John, he would fail to repay the favor and instead fled to Canada in an attempt to avoid capture. For this, he was labeled a coward for the rest of his life. He would eventually be captured, but avoided jail time.

Circumstantial evidence began to mount against Mary, although no "smoking gun" would ever emerge. She was arrested and her trial began on May 9th. Surratt, Herold, Powell, Atzerodt, Dr. Samuel Mudd, and four others, were tried together in a military court. Surratt was charged with aiding, abetting, concealing, counseling, and harboring the co-defendants. The testimony of John Lloyd, who revealed that Mary told him to have "shooting irons" ready at the boarding house for Booth was particularly damaging to Mary. The testimony of boarder Louis Weichman, who claimed to have overheard her son having conversations with Booth, Powell, and Atzerodt, many times in the four and a half months before the assassination was also very damaging. Weichman revealed the connections between the Surratt family and the Confederate spy network of Maryland.

### The Verdict

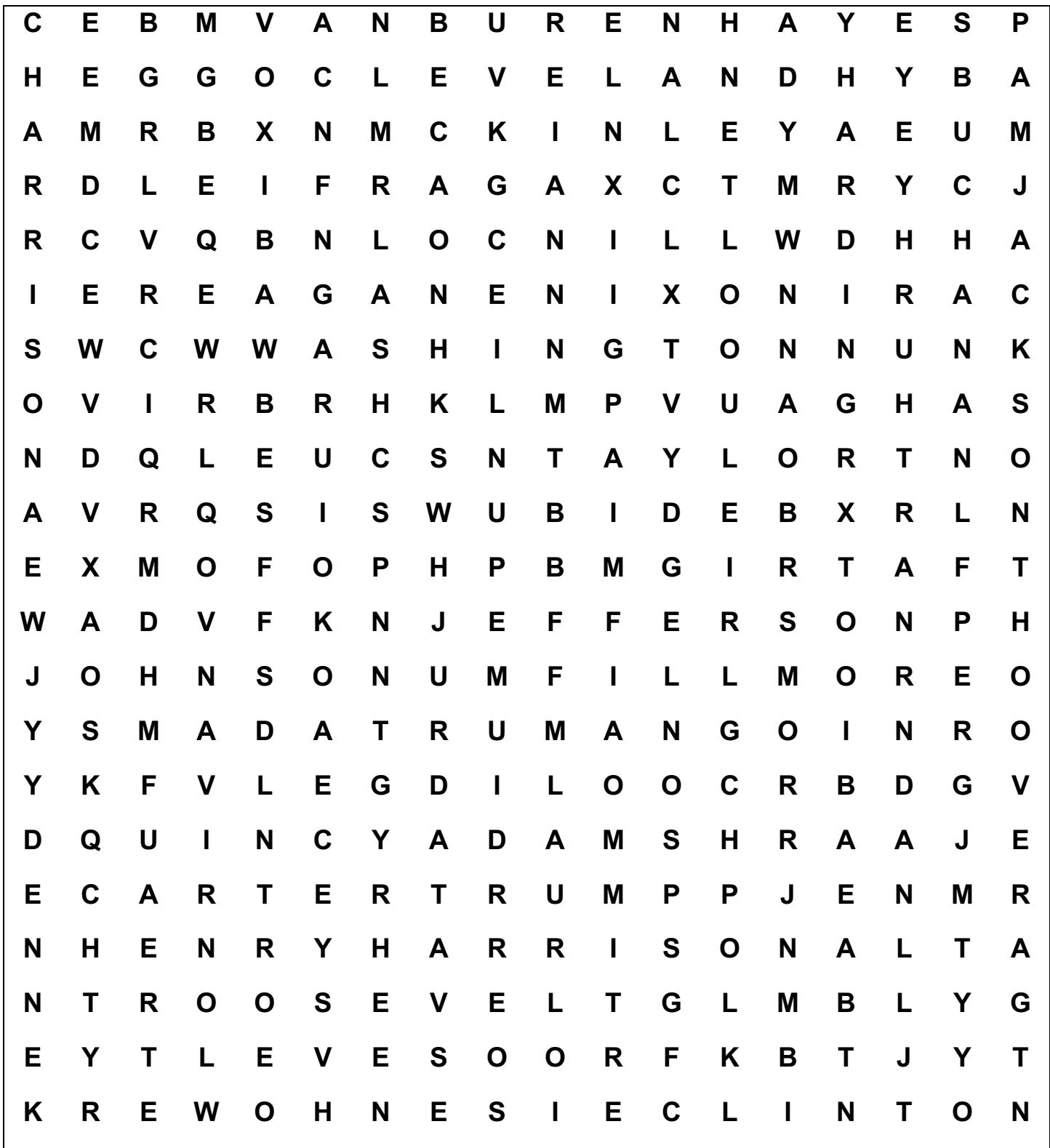
Despite the unreliable witnesses that testified against Mary, she was found guilty on all but two charges and sentenced to death. Five of the nine judges in the case petitioned President Andrew Johnson for Mary's sentence to be commuted to life in prison because of her age and because she was a woman, but Johnson either never saw the petition or refused to sign it. Lewis Powell, who was also sentenced to death, swore that she was completely innocent before his death, although George Atzerodt implicated her further before his death.

1. The author uses the term "smoking gun" in the second paragraph. Based on the context of how it is used in this passage, describe a "smoking gun" in a fictional cheating scandal in a classroom.
2. Pretend you are part of the fictional "Free Mary Surratt" society. What are two main points you could argue for why Mary should be freed?
3. Pretend you are one of the judges who refused to sign the petition requesting commutation of Mary's sentence. Why do you think she is guilty?
4. Why is John Surratt considered a coward? Can you think of any other characters from history, literature, or the movies, who showed cowardice? Explain. Answers

## Possible Answers

1. A “smoking gun” is direct evidence that links a perpetrator to a crime. If a student was caught cheating at school, a “smoking gun” would be something like a paper with answers on it, a copy of the test in a student’s possession with answers, answers written on a student’s hand, or unauthorized use of technology during the test.
2. The major point here is that there is no direct evidence that Mary knew about the assassination plot.
3. While Mary may or may not have known about the assassination plot, there was a lot of circumstantial evidence that tied her to it. She had contact with all of the conspirators and had provided shelter to them. Her son was heavily involved in a previous attempt to kidnap Lincoln. Furthermore, she lied to investigators about her knowledge of Louis Powell and the whereabouts of her son.
4. John Surratt is a coward because he left his mother to hang from the gallows to save his own life. Examples of cowardice are common in literature and movies. The “lion” considered himself a coward in the *Wizard of Oz*. In the *Lion King*, the antagonist Scar frequently exhibits cowardice. There are many others.

Presidents Word Search



## Presidents Bank

Washington	Adams	Jefferson	Madison	Monroe	Jackson
Quincy Adams	Van Buren	Henry Harrison	Tyler	Polk	Taylor
Fillmore	Pierce	Buchanan	Lincoln	Johnson	Grant
Hayes	Garfield	Arthur	Cleveland	Harrison	McKinley
Troosevelt	Wilson	Taft	Harding	Coolidge	Hoover
Froosevelt	Truman	Eisenhower	Kennedy	Johnson	Nixon
Ford	Carter	Reagan	Bush	Clinton	WBush
Obama	Trump				

**Choose Your Own Path Through History – The Story of Dr. Samuel Mudd**  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mudd was an American physician and farmer who lived near Bryantown, Maryland, during the American Civil War. Like many people who lived near Bryantown, Mudd was a slave owner who supported the Confederate States of America. In 1864, the state of Maryland abolished slavery, making the future of Mudd's tobacco plantation uncertain. That same year, Mudd was introduced to the actor John Wilkes Booth. Booth claimed he was interested in buying land in the region, but was really touring the area to map an escape route for his planned kidnapping of Abraham Lincoln. To what extent Mudd and Booth discussed the kidnapping plot is unclear. Historians do know that Booth stayed overnight at Mudd's farm and purchased a horse from him. Ultimately, the kidnapping plan failed to come into fruition. Booth and Mudd met again in Washington in late December of 1864 but the details of the meeting remain unknown as well.

On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. While managing a desperate escape from the theater, Booth broke his leg. Despite his injury, he was able to escape Washington that night and rode toward southern Maryland. One of his accomplices, David Herold, met Booth in the wilderness in an attempt to guide him to safety. When it became clear that Booth would be unable to continue without medical attention, Herold guided him to the house of Dr. Mudd. At 4:00 in the morning, they knocked on Mudd's door. Mudd recognized Booth but was likely unaware that he had just assassinated the president. Mudd diagnosed the broken fibula, fashioned a splint, and arranged for a pair of crutches to be delivered. Booth and Herold were extended hospitality and spent the remainder of the morning and much of the next day at Mudd's farm.

The next morning, Mudd rode into Bryantown, where he quickly learned news of Lincoln's assassination and the identity of the assassin. Unbelievably, Mudd found himself at the crossroads of American history. He had two choices. He could tell the authorities in Bryantown that Lincoln's assassin was incapacitated at his farm less than five miles away, and thus, become one of America's great heroes. Or, he could say nothing and protect the assassin. Mudd's decision would have a major impact on his life and on the course of American history!

Mudd chose to protect Booth. Although there are conflicting accounts of what followed, Mudd probably calmly returned to his farm and demanded that both Booth and Herold leave immediately. It is thought that Mudd waited at least 24 hours to tell the authorities anything about his visitors. When he was finally questioned by the authorities, he may have also led them in the wrong direction in their quest to capture Booth. Mudd's explanations drew the suspicion of detectives, who continued to question him over the course of the next few days. Mudd initially claimed to never have met Booth before, but eventually it was revealed he had in fact met him several times.

On April 26, 1865, Dr. Samuel Mudd was arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder Abraham Lincoln. In this context, conspiracy means he was involved with the planning and execution of the murder and escape. On June 29, 1865, Mudd was sentenced to life in prison. He escaped the death penalty by a single vote.

In 1869, Mudd was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson for helping to stop an epidemic of yellow fever in prison. He was released from jail and returned to his farm near Bryantown. He died at the age of 49 from pneumonia. Mudd's conviction remains a source of controversy today.

- 1. What was discussed during the second meeting between John Wilkes Booth and Dr. Samuel Mudd?**
  - A. The assassination of Lincoln
  - B. The escape route that Booth would follow
  - C. The ending of slavery
  - D. The topics of their discussions are unknown
- 2. Which of the following IS NOT true?**
  - A. Booth broke his leg following the assassination of Lincoln.
  - B. Dr. Mudd helped Booth by making a splint and arranging for crutches
  - C. Dr. Mudd discussed the assassination of Lincoln with Booth
  - D. Booth and David Herold spent the remainder of the morning at Dr. Mudd's home.
- 3. How was Mudd at the “crossroads” of history?**
  - A. Because John Wilkes Booth had escaped Washington
  - B. Because Dr. Mudd had helped John Wilkes Booth escape
  - C. Because Mudd's decision on whether or not to protect John Wilkes Booth would have a major impact on American history
  - D. Because Mudd's decision on whether or not to alert the authorities to the whereabouts of John Wilkes Booth would delay his capture.
- 4. Why did Mudd wait 24 hours to tell authorities about his visitors?**
  - A. Because he was so surprised about Lincoln's assassination
  - B. Probably to give Booth and Herold as much time as possible to elude captors
  - C. Because Mudd claimed to have never met Booth
  - D. To ensure he did not get in trouble
- 5. What is suggested in the following sentence?**

Although there are conflicting accounts of what followed, Mudd probably calmly returned to his farm and demanded that both Booth and Herold leave immediately.

  - A. Historians aren't totally sure what Dr. Mudd did when he returned to his house
  - B. Historians are sure that Booth and Herold were at Mudd's farmhouse.
  - C. Historians are sure that Dr. Mudd demanded that Booth and Herold leave his farmhouse
  - D. Historians aren't sure if Dr. Mudd was involved in the plot.
- 6. What does the word “incapacitated” mean in the following sentence?**

He could tell the authorities in Bryantown that Lincoln's assassin was incapacitated at his farm less than five miles away, and thus, become one of America's great heroes.

  - A. Quiet
  - B. Unable to move well
  - C. Hidden
  - D. Uncertain
- 7. Which of the following IS NOT answered in the fourth paragraph?**
  - A. How long did Dr. Mudd wait before telling the authorities about his visitors?
  - B. Why did authorities question Dr. Mudd over the course of several days?
  - C. Why did Dr. Mudd decide to protect Booth and Herold?
  - D. How many times did Dr. Mudd meet with John Wilkes Booth?

Laura Keene

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Laura Keene was one of the most famous actors and stage managers of her time. She performed all over the world: in London, New York, California, and Australia. She achieved great financial success by starting her own theater in New York City. On October 15, 1858, *My American Cousin* debuted in Keene's theater. Keene had purchased the rights to the play, which was originally written by British playwright Tom Taylor. The story was a comedy about an American who must visit his English relatives to claim his inheritance. *My American Cousin* proved very popular – it was only scheduled to play for two weeks but instead, ran for 150 straight days.

Laura Keene, however, is best known for the events that occurred at Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865, during the showing of *My American Cousin* in Washington, D.C. At 10:13 P.M., John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln, who had come to watch the play with his wife in celebration of the Union victory over the Confederate States of America in the American Civil War. Amidst the chaotic scene, Keene made her way through a labyrinth of passageways to the presidential box. She carried a pitcher of water, which served as her ticket inside. Sensing history was being made, Keene begged Dr. Charles Leale, who was attending to Lincoln, if she could see the dying president. Amazingly, Leale agreed. Keene proceeded to create a scene only an actor could imagine. Carefully, she cradled the president's head in her lap for several minutes. Keene's theatrics served no medical purpose whatsoever and ultimately served as a bizarre side note to one of the most tragic episodes in American history to that point. Keene cherished the colorful floral dress she wore that night, because the cuff bore bloodstains from the dying president. Over time, the dress was lost, but the cuff still exists today – complete with Lincoln's blood. It was donated to the National Museum of American History.

**1. Who was Tom Taylor?**

- A. The author of *My American Cousin*
- B. An actor in *My American Cousin*
- C. Laura Keene's husband
- D. A doctor who was attending to Abraham Lincoln

**2. Which of the following was not true?**

- A. Laura Keene was well-known before the Lincoln episode
- B. Dr. Charles Leale surprisingly allowed Ms. Keene to enter Lincoln's box and cradle the dying president
- C. Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth
- D. *My American Cousin* was the story of a British man visiting his American relatives

**3. What does “debuted” mean in the following sentences?**

*My American Cousin* debuted in Keene's theater. Keene had purchased the rights to the play, which was originally written by British playwright Tom Taylor.

- A. Made its first showing
- B. Ended
- C. Performed
- D. Listened

**4. What purpose did Keene's presence in Lincoln's box serve?**

- A. She brought water to the President
- B. She served no purpose
- C. She brought comfort to the President
- D. She brought hope to the President

**5. What question is NOT answered?**

- A. Why was Lincoln watching *My American Cousin*?
- B. Who watched *My American Cousin* alongside of Lincoln?
- C. Why did Dr. Leale allow Laura Keene to stage the scene with Lincoln?
- D. Does any part of the dress that Keene wore that night still exist?

**6. Which of the following best describes the scene described in the second paragraph?**

- A. Keene's actions made her one of the most famous people in American history
- B. Keene's actions served as a strange episode in a national tragedy
- C. Keene's actions served to comfort the nation during a horrible event
- D. Keene's actions proved she was one of the best actors of her time

**7. What could be a title for the passage?**

- A. The History of Ford's Theater
- B. Laura Keene's Dress
- C. Laura Keene – Making History with a Dying President
- D. Assassination – How Lincoln's Death Changed America