



A is for Abraham Lincoln

Born in a log cabin,
His schooling rare and poor,
To succeed in his life
He knew he needed more.

Great Emancipator,
The sixteenth President,
Gave Gettysburg Address,
Remembered on the cent.

Fun Facts: Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President. He was born on February 12, 1809, in a one-room log cabin.

The day Lincoln was born is celebrated as a state holiday, in some states. He was known as the Great Emancipator.

Lincoln lived on a farm on the frontier. He became good at using an axe. His first job was cutting logs. As he had little time for fun and school, his education was just a few weeks during the winter months. Altogether he had about two years of schooling.

He was a determined young man and knew he needed some schooling to be a success. So he decided to educate himself. He read whatever he could find on the frontier. There weren't many books there, so he read the Bible a lot. He wrote his math problems on a wooden board. Always, he thought ideas through until he could understand them forward and backward.

Lincoln's friends pushed him to run for a government job. To prepare for the job, he studied

books on law. In 1836, he passed the bar exam and gained the respect of more experienced lawyers. Finally, one asked him to join his office in Springfield, Illinois. In 1861, he ran for president and was elected.

Lincoln was one of the most popular presidents. He was the first president with a beard. He stood 6 feet 4 inches tall and wore a size 12 to 14 shoe.

Abraham Lincoln's hat was made of beaver fur. He carried important documents in a secret lining inside his hat. He also wore it when he made speeches.

One of his speeches, the Gettysburg Address, was given on November 19, 1863. It is the most quoted speech in history. It is 272 words long and about two minutes in length.

During his presidency, Lincoln created the Secret Service, helped begin the Republican Party, and made Thanksgiving a holiday on October 3, 1863.

His image is on more than fifty postage stamps, and his head has been on the penny since 1909 and the five-dollar bill since 1928.

Questions and Activities:

- 1) Have fun with a [coloring page](#) of President Lincoln.
- 2) Ask your child what he or she remembers about what Abraham Lincoln looked like. Was he short or tall? Did he have a beard or whiskers? What kind of hat did he like to wear?
- 3) Make a stovepipe hat. You can find directions [here](#).
- 4) Listen to the [Gettysburg Address](#) with your child. See if you can memorize the first six words. Ask your child how long he thinks "four score and seven years" is.
- 5) Here are some fun websites where you can see buildings dedicated to President Lincoln:
[Lincoln Memorial](#)
[Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum](#)

Additional Reading—Picture Books

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers by Karen B. Winnick

This is a true story about a little girl who wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln, asking him to grow a beard. She told him the beard would help him to get elected President of the United States of America.

Thank You Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving by Laurie Halse Anderson

This is the true story about Sarah Hale writing to Abraham Lincoln asking for Thanksgiving to become a holiday.

I am Abraham Lincoln by Brad Melzer

This is a fictionalized story of Abraham Lincoln's life.

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