Racing President
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Activity Book
In 2016 and 2017, the White House Historical Association and the Washington Nationals partnered for an educational contest—White House at Bat: A Presidential History Challenge. This program asked local high school students to create a storyboard examining the Constitutional powers and decision-making of one of the Racing Presidents. The winning students saw their storyboards come to life as short videos which were shared with fans during a game at Nationals Park and then showcased online.

2016 Winning Project for Abraham Lincoln
Lincoln’s Western New Deal

This video addressed two of Abe’s lesser-known presidential decisions, the signing of the Homestead and Pacific Railroad Acts in 1862.

By Janiece Jefferies, Yulong Jones, Natalie Morgan, and Pamela Steimel from Northwest High School in Germantown, MD.

2017 Winning Project for Abraham Lincoln
Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation

This video details Abe’s decision to free the slaves in the Confederate states and the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation.

By Nicolo Allado from Herndon High School in Fairfax County, VA.
Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Kentucky. At seven, Abe and his family moved to the Indiana frontier. He had little formal education as a child, but loved to read and worked hard to gain an education however he could.

Abe eventually settled in Illinois. He started out by working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and maintaining a general store. Abe went on to serve in the Illinois Militia and then in the state’s legislature. In 1837, he started his practice as a lawyer in Springfield.

In 1842, he married Mary Todd, the daughter of a wealthy slaveholding family in Kentucky. Together they had four sons; Robert, Edward, Willie, and Tad.

Lincoln was elected president of the United States in 1860. Shortly after his March 1861 inauguration, the Civil War began after many Southern slaveholding states left the Union and formed the Confederate States of America.

During Abe’s time at the White House, he made many tough but important decisions. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed enslaved people in Confederate states. The following November he gave his famous Gettysburg Address speech declaring the war was not just to preserve the Union, but to ensure “a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth.”

Abe was re-elected as president in 1864. As the Civil War came to an end, a Confederate sympathizer shot President Lincoln when he was attending a play at Ford’s Theatre in D.C., not far from the White House. President Lincoln died from his wounds on April 15, 1865.

Abe’s youngest sons, Tad and Willie, had two pet goats named Nanny and Nanko. On one memorable occasion, Tad hitched Nanko to a chair and rode him straight through the East Room while his father was holding a social event.

Protecting the White House was very important during the Civil War. Union soldiers camped on the grounds and even for a short time inside the East Room.

Tad Lincoln often wore a kid-sized officer’s uniform and then joined Union troops as they drilled and patrolled the grounds.

Highlighted Item from the White House Collection Dinner Plate:
At the White House, important meals are often served on official china—a collection of plates, cups, bowls, and other service items that are both useful and decorative. Many presidents order a new design of china with symbolic designs and colors they like.

This item is a dinner plate from the Lincoln administration. Items from this service share the same purple border and eagle motif.

Purchased in 1861, this china pattern was selected by First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln.

The Lincoln china has remained one of the most popular state services, still used for special occasions.

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1. Abraham Lincoln lived in a few different states as a young man. In which state was he born?
   a. Illinois
   b. Kentucky
   c. Indiana
   d. Kansas

2. Abe is known for making famous speeches and writing some important documents. Which of the following was not authored by Abe?
   a. The Gettysburg Address
   b. “Fireside Chats”
   c. The Emancipation Proclamation
   d. All of the above

3. Before his presidency, Abe had many different jobs. Which of the following was not a job held by Abe?
   a. Farm worker
   b. Illinois legislator
   c. Vice President
   d. Militia captain

Fill in the Blank
The “Lincoln Bedroom” of today’s White House was actually used as a ________________ during Abe’s time.

Abe’s youngest son, ____________, used his pet goats to pull him around the halls of the White House.

Matching
Draw a line from the words on the left to the matching words on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAWYER</th>
<th>UNION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMANCIPATION</td>
<td>TAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td>RAILSPITTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>LOG CABIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INAUGURATION</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ILLINOIS | WAR |
| MARY | MILITIA |
| CIVIL | PROCLAMATION |
| GETTYSBURG | TODD |
| EMANCIPATION | ADDRESS |
Trace over the signature and then try to recreate it on the blank grid below.

A. Lincoln

IN ABE’S OWN WORDS

“Abe Lincoln Quotes

“The better part of one’s life consists of his friendships.”
– Letter to Joseph Gillespie, Illinois legislator (1849)

“Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man’s nature—opposition to it, in his love of justice.”
– Speech at Peoria, Illinois (1854)

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”
– Speech at the Illinois Republican State Convention (1858)

“With malice toward none, with charity for all...let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds...”
– Second Inaugural Address (1864)
The photograph of President Lincoln and his son Tad was used as the inspiration for this painting by Francis Bicknell Carpenter.

**How are they similar?**

When a person paints a picture, they can make changes to it. Even though the photograph this artist worked from had nothing in the background, the artist decided what to add.

Find two houses in the background of the painting: The framed painting of a log cabin on the wall represents Abraham Lincoln’s childhood and the image of the White House through the window reflects his rise to the presidency.

**How are they different?**

Draw a portrait of yourself. Include objects and people that are special to you!
LEARN TO DRAW ABE!

STEP ONE

STEP TWO

NOW YOU TRY!
Add the body underneath the head if you like.

STEP THREE

STEP FOUR

ARTIST: JOHN HUTTON
Abraham Lincoln was our tallest president. He stood at 6 feet, 4 inches — that is even without his hat! How does your height compare?

Now, draw a picture of yourself next to President Lincoln. In the 19th century, the average height for men was about 5 feet, 7 inches. Do you think President Lincoln’s height made him stand out?

How tall are you?
I am _____ feet and _____ inches tall.
Answers for Multiple Choice:
1B
2B
3C

Answers for Fill in the Blank
1. Office/meeting room
2. Tad

Answers for Matching:
Illinois Militia
Mary Todd
Civil War
Gettysburg Address
Emancipation Proclamation

LAWYER
EMANCIPATION
KENTUCKY
ILLINOIS
INAUGURATION

UNION
TAD
RAILSPLITTER
LOG CABIN
PRESIDENT
ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY IS FEBRUARY 12, MANY STATES INCLUDE HIM IN THEIR CELEBRATIONS FOR PRESIDENT’S DAY.

ARTIST: HOWARD KURTZ