



LINCOLN: the Constitution and the Civil War, a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name currently touring the United States.



LINCOLN: the Constitution and the Civil War has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this brochure do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The National Constitution Center
Curator: Steve Frank
Project Director: Stephanie Reyer
Project Manager: Melissa Carruth
Project Coordinator: Sarah Winski
Registrar: Stephanie Wiener

Exhibit Design:
Alusiv

Exhibit Fabrication:
Palumbo Associates Inc.

Tour Coordinator:
American Library Association

Special thanks to:
Gilder Lehrman Collection
New-York Historical Society
Ohio Historical Society
The Raab Collection
The Indiana Historical Society
The Massachusetts Historical Society
The New York Public Library
The Chicago Historical Society
The Library of Congress
Corbis-Bettman
Carol Highsmith
Susan Bankroft

Exhibition Sites:

Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War is being displayed in libraries throughout the United States. For a schedule of exhibition locations and display times, please visit <http://www.ala.org/publicprograms>; contact the American Library Association Public Programs Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; or call 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5045.

The Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War Teacher's Guide can be found online in a downloadable .pdf format at: www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ForEducators/LincolnTeacherGuide.shtml



A TRAVELING EXHIBITION TO AMERICAN LIBRARIES

LINCOLN

THE CONSTITUTION
AND THE CIVIL WAR

DIVIDED
BOUND
DISSENT

Was the "United States" truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign and separate states?

How could a country founded on the belief that "all men are created equal" tolerate slavery?

In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure?

"Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln."

— Ronald Reagan, 1981

"I do not know which party Lincoln would belong to if he were alive [today]... I am more interested in the fact that he did the big job which then had to be done — to preserve the Union and make possible the united country that we all live in today. His sympathies and his motives of championship of humanity itself have made him for all centuries to come the legitimate property of all parties — of every man and woman and child in every part of our land."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1940

Why does LINCOLN MATTER today?

With the election of Abraham Lincoln as the nation's 16th president in 1860, America faced its greatest constitutional test. How could a country founded on the belief that "all men are created equal" continue to tolerate slavery in its Constitution?

Lincoln's struggle to save the Union transformed the Constitution and created the nation we are today. To his contemporaries, Lincoln was a controversial president. He was denounced as a "tyrant" for his policies on civil liberties and vilified for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.



Courtesy of Picture History

To this day, questions about Lincoln's leadership stir debate: Was he a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery, or a principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator?

Lincoln entered office maintaining that slavery would gradually die out, a victim of its own moral contradictions. But that proved to be a false hope, and in the crucible of the Civil War Lincoln came to realize that for the Union to survive slavery had to be destroyed.



Image Courtesy of Corbis-Bettman

Image Courtesy of Indiana Historical Society

Now score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who died here that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—

that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

-Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863



Lincoln insisted that America live up to its best traditions – the ideal of liberty and even equality for all. He knew that the nation had not yet measured up. And so at Gettysburg, he challenged Americans to take up the "unfinished work" of creating a "new birth of freedom."

Lincoln's words have echoed down the decades, speaking to what he termed on another occasion "the better angels of our nature." His deeds, his sacrifice, are a legacy we all share.

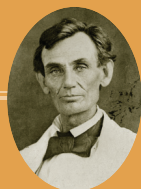
Related Readings

- Carwardine, Richard. *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power*. Vintage, 2007.
- Cox, Lawanda. *Lincoln and Black Freedom-A Study in Presidential Leadership*. University of South Carolina Press, 1994.
- Farber, Daniel. *Lincoln's Constitution*. Lincoln's Constitution. 2003.
- McPherson, James. *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*. Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Paludan, Philip Shaw. *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln*. University of Kansas Press, 1994.
- Simon, James F. *Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney: Slavery, Secession, and the President's War Powers*. University of South Carolina Press, 2006.
- White, Ronald. *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln through His Words*. Random House, 2005.

On the Web

- www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/module10/
The Gilder Lehrman website provides teaching modules and lesson plans for significant events related to the Civil War.
- <http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/e-gov/e-politicalarchiveCivilWar1.htm>
The Rutgers University Eagleton Institute of Politics provides a "Digital Archive of American Politics" that includes a Civil War timeline.
- www.hti.umich.edu/l/lincoln/
The Abraham Lincoln Association provides access to the Roy P. Basler edition of "The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln" in a searchable database with links to classroom material, a bibliography, and "The Lincoln Log," a daily chronology of the life of Abraham Lincoln.
- www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html
The Library of Congress's "Abraham Lincoln Papers" website provides access to approximately 20,000 original documents with transcriptions searchable by key words. This site also includes a useful Emancipation Proclamation timeline.
- www.constitutioncenter.org/ncc_edu_Lesson_Plans.aspx
The National Constitution Center offers a variety of methods and materials to aid teachers in their mission to inspire active citizenship in their students.
- www.historyplace.com/lincoln/index.html#blockade
History Place website provides a timeline of Abraham Lincoln's life along with photographs and speeches.

Lincoln's Life



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1809
February 12, 1809
Born in Hardin County, Kentucky | 1832
August 6, 1832
Defeated in election for Illinois State legislature | 1834
August 4, 1834
Elected to Illinois House of Representatives, serves four terms | 1846
August 3, 1846
Elected as representative from Illinois to U.S. House of Representatives | 1858
August – October 1858
Debates Stephen A. Douglas during senatorial race, which Lincoln loses | 1860
November 6, 1860
Elected president | 1861
March 4, 1861
Inaugurated as 16th president | 1861
April 12, 1861
Confederate forces fire upon Fort Sumter; war begins | 1862
September 22, 1862
Issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation | 1862
September 24, 1862
Suspends writ of habeas corpus nationwide | 1863
January 1, 1863
Emancipation Proclamation takes effect | 1863
November 19, 1863
Delivers Gettysburg Address | 1864
November 8, 1864
Elected to second term | 1865
January 31, 1865
Congress passes Thirteenth Amendment | 1865
April 9, 1865
Lee surrenders at Appomattox Courthouse | 1865
April 14, 1865
Shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater | 1865
April 15, 1865
Dies at 7:22 a.m. | 1865
May 4, 1865
Buried in Springfield, Illinois | 1865
December 6, 1865
Thirteenth Amendment ratified by states |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|

Timeline Images Courtesy of (from left to right): Corbis/Bettman; Corbis/Bettman; Library of Congress; National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institute; Corbis/Bettman; Library of Congress

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S CROSSROADS

www.constitutioncenter.org/lincoln/
Visit our website featuring an online game

Match wits with Abraham Lincoln by exploring his political choices and leadership decisions.

An animated Lincoln introduces a situation, asks for advice and prompts players to decide the issue for themselves, before learning the actual outcome.

At the end of the game, players discover how frequently they predicted Lincoln's actions.

