



ABE LINCOLN TIMELINE

Grade Level

4-8

Length of Lesson

15 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will have a better understanding of the major life events of Abraham Lincoln.

Materials Needed

- Copies of the Student Worksheet
- Access to the internet or Lincoln texts

Standards

IL Social Studies

Standards:

SS.15.4.6-8.MC.

SS.15.4.3-5.

SS.CV.4.4.

SS.CV.2.6-8LC.

SS.H.3.4.

SS.H.1.6-8.MdC.

Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to help students think about the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. They will use their prior knowledge of Lincoln's life to help them sequence important events from his life.

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Read through the AITC Illinois History Ag Mag to learn about important moments in Illinois history. Online interactive versions of our Ag Mags are available on our website.
2. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Pass out the Student Worksheet.
 - If necessary, allow students to access the internet, or provide them with texts about Abraham Lincoln to assist them in filling out the timeline.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.
 - What important events are missing from this timeline?
 - How did these events in Lincoln's life have an impact on other people in the U.S.?
 - How do these events have a continued impact on people in the present-day U.S.?

TEACHER RESOURCES

Background Information:

While Lincoln never took much of an interest in farming himself, he recognized the importance of agriculture in a growing nation. His actions as president have left a lasting impact on agriculture in our country. Here are a number of resources to learn more about Lincoln's agricultural legacy:

- Online resources:
 - [Growing a Nation](http://agclassroom.org/gan/index.htm): Follow the story of American agriculture at agclassroom.org/gan/index.htm.
 - [The Lincoln Log](http://lincolnlog.org): A searchable daily chronology of Lincoln's activities at the lincolnlog.org.
 - Learn more about Lincoln's agricultural legacy from the USDA at <https://www.nal.usda.gov/topics/lincolns-agricultural-legacy>.
- Text resources:
 - *The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16th President* by Eileen Meyer. This book has a great poem called "Most Distracted Farmer."
 - *Lincoln Clears a Path: Abraham Lincoln's Agricultural Legacy* by Peggy Thomas. Available February 2021.

Extension Ideas:

- Have students find more facts to add to the timeline.
- Have students find one new event in Abraham Lincoln's life and share with the class. Then, have the rest of the class guess what year that event took place!
- Give students a random year and have them research what Abraham Lincoln was up to that year.
- Look further into how Abraham Lincoln played a role in agriculture. Was he a farmer? Did he help with machinery?
- Have students choose one of the events from the Student Worksheet and then write Abraham Lincoln a letter focused on that event.
- Contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator to get copies of our Ag Mags, including our [Illinois History Ag Mag](http://illinois-history-ag-mag.org). Find your county coordinator here: http://agintheclassroom.org/AGLitCoord/contact_your_county_agricultural.shtml

Answers to the Abe Lincoln Timeline:

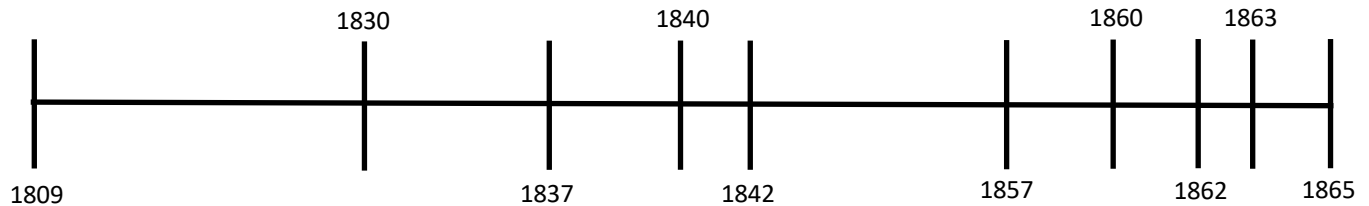
1. 1809
2. 1857
3. 1863
4. 1865
5. 1830
6. 1842
7. 1860
8. 1837
9. 1862
10. 1840



ABE LINCOLN TIMELINE

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Look at the timeline below. Then, next to each statement listed under the timeline, write the year the event took place.



- _____ 1. Abraham Lincoln is born outside of Hodgenville, Kentucky.
- _____ 2. Lincoln speaks against the Dred Scott decision which ruled that people of African descent, enslaved or not, could never be citizens of the United States. It also ruled Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in federal territories, that enslaved people could not sue in court, and that enslaved people were private property and could not be taken from their owners without due process.
- _____ 3. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, which frees enslaved people. He also delivers the Gettysburg Address in the same year.
- _____ 4. Lincoln is shot in the temple and killed by actor John Wilkes Booth while attending the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater.
- _____ 5. The Lincolns move to Illinois. The Lincoln family locates 10 miles southwest of Decatur on the north bank of the Sangamon River (now Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park).
- _____ 6. Lincoln marries Mary Todd.
- _____ 7. Lincoln is nominated by the Republican Party for president. Lincoln wins the election, defeating three other candidates: Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Breckinridge, and John Bell. South Carolina secedes from the Union. Its people did not want Lincoln to be president. Ten other states follow.
- _____ 8. Lincoln moves to Springfield, Illinois. There he becomes junior partner in the law firm with John Stuart. He also makes his first public speech against slavery.
- _____ 9. Lincoln signs the Homestead Act, providing 250 million acres of free land to settlers on public domain land. While seen as important to expanding the country, this was devastating to Native American nations who already lived on the land. The same year, he established the Department of Agriculture and signed into law the Morrill Act which provided for land-grant colleges such as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- _____ 10. Lincoln argues his first case before the Illinois Supreme Court. He also makes a speaking tour around Illinois for the presidential campaign.