

Reading Ex. > The Greatest U.S. President: Abraham Lincoln

A. Read a text about a human leader in American History.



In 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky on February 12, 1809, to parents who could neither read nor write. Sadly, Abraham's mother died when he was only nine years old, but he grew up to be wise, tall, and strong. He loved to wrestle and educate himself by reading stories. Though he only went to school for one year; Abe was very intelligent and learned to read on his own. Abe grew up, worked hard, and helped his neighbors. One time, he earned money taking a load of cargo down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. This was the first time he saw slaves.

In 1830, the Lincolns moved to Illinois. After Abe left home, he had many jobs. At one time, he was a storekeeper and later he became a

postmaster; but what Abe really wanted was to become a lawyer. At the age 25 he was elected to the local government in Springfield, Illinois. Once there, he taught himself law. In 1836, Abe passed the test to become a lawyer, opened a law practice and earned the nickname 'Honest Abe'.

Abraham Lincoln decided to go into politics. In 1860 he was elected president of the U.S. However, his nation was not truly united, and he led the U.S. in the victory in the Civil War in 1865. President Lincoln became one of the four greatest presidents. He was also a great orator. He is remembered as the president who freed the slaves. Abraham Lincoln was truly a self-made man. When he was assassinated in a theatre in 1865, it was a great loss for America. In the U.S. people celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday on *President's Day*.

1. Lincoln's parents were ____.

- a. supportive
- b. poorly educated
- c. farmers
- d. hard-working

2. Lincoln became ____ at the age of 9.

- a. a student
- b. a good reader
- c. a wrestler
- d. an orphan

3. He saw slaves for first time when ____.

- a. he earned money from his neighbors
- b. he lived in New Orleans
- c. he worked with them
- d. he sailed down the Mississippi River

4. Lincoln worked as all following except ____.

- a. a politician
- b. a bookkeeper
- c. a mailman
- d. a lawyer

5. In the mid 1800's, Lincoln ____.

- a. was elected the President of the U.S
- b. worked as a governor
- c. became a lawyer
- d. was known as 'Honest Abe'

6. Abraham is known as the one who ____.

- a. united the nation
- b. became the greatest president
- c. saved individuals from slavery
- d. was a great orator

7. Sadly, Lincoln ____.

- a. was killed after the end of the Civil War
- b. was not as great as the U.S. hoped
- c. did not win the Civil War
- d. could not unite the U.S.

8. The main idea of the story is that Lincoln ____.

- a. worked hard for his family since an early age
- b. was assassinated for his ideals of freedom
- c. came from modest origins
- d. made great things for his country

9. This text is most like ____.

- a. a life story
- b. a historical letter
- c. magazine article
- d. a short story

10. A good title for this text would be ____.

- a. *Life and Death of a Modest Man*
- b. *Celebrate President's Day!*
- c. *Who Changed the U.S.*
- d. *An Honest Man in Politics*



Text taken and adapted from: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/abraham-lincoln>

Authored by Andrés Barón-Ávila

MA Education and Technology – UCL Institute of Education

