

Name:

Class:

# Unit 4 – Chapter 11

## FIRST LISTENING

Listen to the lecture on Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy. As you listen, put the following parts of the lecture in the order that you hear them. Number them 1 to 5.

- \_\_\_ Some coincidences in the lives of the two presidents.
- \_\_\_ The lecturer's personal memory of the death of President Kennedy.
- \_\_\_ Where the presidents were educated.
- \_\_\_ When the presidents were born.
- \_\_\_ The circumstances of the presidents' assassinations.

## THIRD LISTENING

Lecturer: In this lecture, I'd like to share some thoughts about two famous Americans, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. First, I'll talk about some of the major differences between the two men. Then, I'll tell you about some similarities between Lincoln and Kennedy. In other words, I'll talk a little about their family and educational backgrounds. Then I'll talk a little more about their political lives. And finally, I'll end by saying a few words about their tragic fates. Both Lincoln and Kennedy were assassinated- -killed--while in office. I'm old enough to remember the day in 1963 that President Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas. It was a pretty sad day. But I don't want to talk about that sad day now.

How were Lincoln and Kennedy different? Let's see. For one thing, they lived in different times and had very different family and educational backgrounds. Kennedy lived in the twentieth century, last century; Lincoln lived in the nineteenth century. Kennedy was born in 1917, whereas Lincoln was born more than a hundred years earlier, in 1809. As for their family

backgrounds, Kennedy came from a rich family, while Lincoln's family was anything but rich. Because Kennedy came from a wealthy family, he was able to attend expensive, private schools. He graduated from Harvard University. On the other hand, Lincoln had only one year of formal education. In spite of his lack of formal education, Lincoln became a well-known lawyer. He taught himself law by reading law books. You might say Lincoln was a self-educated man.

In spite of these differences in Kennedy and Lincoln's backgrounds, some interesting similarities between the two men are evident. In fact, books have been written about the strange coincidences in the lives of these two men. Take, for example, their political careers. Lincoln began his political career in Congress. Similarly, Kennedy also began his political career in Congress. Lincoln was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1847, and Kennedy was elected to the House in 1947. So they were elected to Congress exactly one hundred years apart. Another interesting coincidence is that each man was elected President of the United States in a year ending with the number 60. Lincoln was elected president in 1860, and Kennedy was elected in 1960; furthermore, both men were president during years of civil unrest in the country. Lincoln was president during the American Civil War. At the time Kennedy became president, African Americans were fighting for their civil rights. Unrest took the form of civil rights demonstrations. Times changed, and in just over 50 more years, the United States elected its first African- American president, Barack Obama. President Obama was elected in 2008 and- But let me get back to talking about Lincoln and Kennedy.

Another striking similarity between these two men was that, as you probably know, neither president lived to complete his term in office. Lincoln and Kennedy were both assassinated while in office. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, in Dallas, Texas, after only 1,000 days in office. Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 a few days after the end of the American Civil War. It is rather curious to note that both presidents were shot while they were sitting next to their wives.

These are only a few examples of the unusual, similarities in the destinies of these two Americans- men who had a tremendous impact on the social and political life of the United States and on the imagination of the American people.

## ACCURACY CHECK

You will hear 10 questions about the lecture. Write a short answer to each question. Use your notes.

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