

# Abraham Lincoln reading passage

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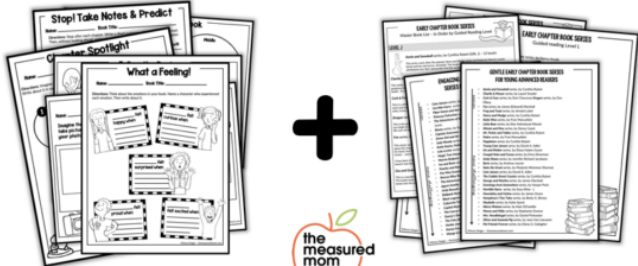


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**Sacagawea**  
Sacagawea (Shoshone, 1784-1812) was a Native American member of the Shoshone (Sho-Sho-Nee) tribe. As a young girl, Sacagawea led a normal life. She wore traditional Shoshone clothing and collected wood. She was married to a man named Lewis and Clark, but her life would change very soon.


**Frederick Douglass**  
Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Maryland in 1818. He was the oldest of four children. He was very smart and learned to read and write. He became a famous abolitionist and speaker. He was one of the most important people in the history of the United States.

**Thomas Jefferson**  
Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743, in Shadwell, Virginia. As a boy, he loved to go fishing. But he also loved to read. He became a lawyer and a politician. He was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was the third president of the United States.

**Helen Keller**  
Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbwa, Alabama. She was blind and deaf. She became a famous author and activist. She was one of the most important people in the history of the United States.

## READER'S THEATER SCRIPTS

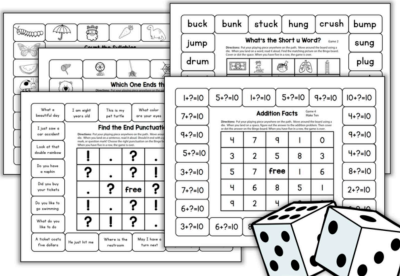
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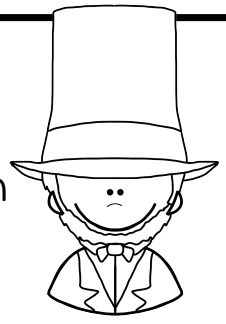


# Abraham Lincoln



Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky.

Abraham Lincoln was born in a one-room log cabin in 1809. His family lived in the Kentucky **wilderness**. The cabin had a single window and a dirt floor.



When he was 7 years old, Lincoln's family moved to Indiana. Abe continued to work hard. He became an expert with an ax. He cleared the woods for farming. He cut and split firewood. He split logs into rails for fences. Abe was better with an ax than anyone around, but he would rather read. He read every book he could find or borrow. He once walked six miles for a book!

When Lincoln was about 21, his family moved to Illinois. Abe was elected to the state **legislature**. He helped make laws for the state of Illinois.



Lincoln spoke out against slavery.

During this time, many people were slaves in the American South. Slaves were not allowed to choose their jobs or where they worked. They worked hard for no pay and were often treated cruelly. Lincoln was **opposed** to slavery. He gave many speeches about how wrong it was.

Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861. Many Southerners were **outraged**. They were afraid that the United States would tell them to give up their slaves. They thought states should be able to make their own laws, so they made their own country. Lincoln wanted to keep the country together. The **Civil War** was a battle between the North and South. It lasted four years, and the North won.

During the war, Lincoln signed the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This important document set millions of slaves free. Sadly, a few days after the war ended, Lincoln was shot and killed.



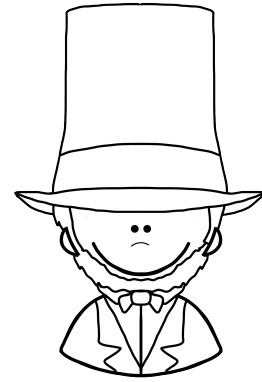
Lincoln is on the front of the penny. The Lincoln Memorial is on the back.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest presidents of the United States. We honor him with a magnificent building called the **Lincoln Memorial**.



# Abraham Lincoln

Name \_\_\_\_\_



1. Where was Abraham Lincoln born?

- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Indiana

2. What was life like for slaves in the United States?

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3. Why were many Southerners upset when Lincoln became president?

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4. Draw lines to match the words to their definitions.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| wilderness  | a war between the Northern and Southern states |
| legislature | people who are owned by other people           |
| Civil War   | a wild area in which few people live           |
| slaves      | a group of people who make laws                |
| opposed     | very upset                                     |
| outraged    | against  |