

PROJECT TITLE:	
HONEST ABE LINCOLN	
AUTHOR:	SUBJECT & GRADE LEVEL
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CLASSROOM PRACTICE (DOCUMENT #2)

1. HI Overview & Teaching Thesis:

Abraham Lincoln began to be called “Honest Abe” early in his life. The nickname stuck throughout his law career and political career. Our sixteenth president has been famous for his honesty since before he was president. Is this still important in the 21st Century? Why was Lincoln called “Honest Abe”? Was he truly honest or was this just a campaign slogan? How does one build a reputation of good character?

This kit contains many photos and prints from the Life of Lincoln for students to examine. It also contains three readers theaters which relate stories from Lincoln’s Life highlighting his honesty. Students will construct a portrait of Lincoln by working together to examine the materials in the kit.

2. Suggested Grade Level and Length of Activities: Third Grade. Three 45 minute class periods.

3. Significance & Relevance: Honesty is not outdated. To have such an example of personal integrity as Abraham Lincoln is a treasure we certainly should pass down to our students for generations to come. These three lessons use primary documents and stories of our sixteenth president to allow students to examine the life of Abraham Lincoln in context of his reputation for honesty.

- **Standards of Learning:** Virginia State Standard of Learning-3.11 b The student will explain the importance of the basic principles that form the foundation of a republican form of government by...identifying the contributions of ... Abraham Lincoln...
- **OAH Historical Skills Taught:**

Historical Comprehension: After viewing documents (mainly pictures and prints) students will be able to see examples of Lincoln’s honesty from different phases of his life.

Historical Understanding: Students will participate in reader’s theater in order to experience several episodes from Lincoln’s life.

Historical Analysis and Interpretation: Student groups will present to the class the specific part of Lincoln's life they have investigated. Together the class will construct an understanding of Lincoln's honesty.

Lesson Objectives –

Students will use primary and secondary sources and stories to examine the life of Abraham Lincoln and see how his character affected choices he made.

Students will be able to identify and describe examples of Lincoln's honesty.

Students will be able to identify and describe examples of statements that reflect Lincoln's honesty.

Students will learn about life growing up in the early nineteenth century in pioneer America.

4. Lesson Plans or Instructional Activities –

Lesson One - Students will work in groups to read stories from Lincoln's life and to examine documents. The teacher will model the use of the "Primary Sources Graphic Organizer."

Lesson Two - The groups will present their findings to the rest of the class. Together the students will construct a timeline of several key phases of Abraham Lincoln's life - boyhood, young manhood, as a lawyer and as President. In each phase the students will be looking for examples of Lincoln's honesty.

Lesson Three - The teacher will guide the students through an examination of four statements from President Lincoln, the First Inaugural Address, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation and The Second Inaugural Address. Then students will work in groups to examine primary documents from Lincoln's time as president. In this lesson the students will be looking for examples of Lincoln as a promise keeper.

5. Technology (if applicable) - Teachers may choose to project some of the documents on a screen for classroom discussion.

6. Modifications, Differentiation, and Extensions – This lesson has many opportunities for differentiation. The teacher can be sure to assign a specific document for analysis to a student who may not be ready to process all of the documents here. Students may work alone or in pairs analyzing the documents to meet special needs. The readers' theaters have many parts, some less arduous than others. Non readers may participate as audience.

Extensions may include allowing students take the documents they have studied and produce posters portraying different times in Lincoln's life that were presented in the lessons and primary sources.

Students may write biographical pieces about Lincoln in Language Arts class, or work together to produce a class biography of Lincoln. This could be presented in the format of a power point if the teacher wishes.

7. Related Materials and Resources:

Primary Sources:

Honest Abe the Hope of our Country Ribbon

Document Set 1 – The Borrowed Book

Document Set 2 – New Salem

Document Set 3 – Lincoln the Lawyer

Document Set 4 – Documents for President Lincoln

For Student Responses

1. Using Primary Sources Graphic Organizer
2. Our group of experts will now share
3. Honest Abe Certificate
4. Four Statements by President Lincoln
5. Assessment sheet: "*Honest Abe*" is a good name for our sixteenth President because...
6. Honest Abe self assessment rubric

Three Readers' Theaters for Relating Lincoln Stories

1. The Borrowed Book
2. New Salem
3. Lincoln the Lawyer

Four Statements by President Lincoln Power point

Time Line for teacher to assemble

Lesson Plan:

Included as separate document called "MS Lesson Plan Honest Abe"

8. Annotated Instructional Bibliography

Books for adults:

Oates, Stephen B. *With malice toward none: the life of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977

Many biographies have been written about Lincoln. This one is very readable. It contains anecdotes of his life and thoughtful analysis of the complex nature of the challenges facing him as our sixteenth president.

Thayer, William Makepeace. "*The pioneer boy: and how he became president...* Walker, Wise and company, 1863- Google Books." *Google Books*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Feb. 2011.
<<http://books.google.com/>.

This author corresponded with Lincoln about some of the stories recorded in the biography, and Lincoln was given a copy of the book when it came out in 1863, so even though it is very anecdotal, it seems as if the source could be considered reliable. The author intended for the book to be an inspiration to young people to be honest like our president. It is very readable.

Herndon, William Henry, and Jesse William Weik. *Herndon's life of Lincoln, the history and personal recollections of Abraham Lincoln as originally written by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik*. Cleveland: World Pub. Co., 1949.

Herndon was a friend and junior law partner of Lincoln's. He began collecting anecdotes before Lincoln's death and interviewed many people in the compilation of this book. Historians have felt that the book is not entirely reliable, especially in the reports about Lincoln's relationship with Ann Rutledge. However, it is a valuable source of Lincoln stories.

Howe, Daniel Walker. *Making the American self: Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Howe's thesis is that Lincoln was a "self-made man" not in the sense of making a fortune for himself, but in the sense that he began as a rough hewn pioneer man with nothing given to him except the opportunity America gives to every citizen

Lincoln, Abraham, and J. B. McClure. *Anecdotes of Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln's stories: including early life stories, professional life stories, White House stories, war stories, miscellaneous stories*. Chicago: Rhodes & McClure, 1879. Google Books." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Feb. 2011.

This very readable book has many interesting anecdotes. It was first published in 1879 listing Lincoln and McClure as authors, although all the stories are told in third person. It is available for free online.

Books for children

Adler, David A., and John C. Wallner. *Honest Abe Lincoln: easy-to-read stories about Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Holiday House, 2009.

This fine primary biography of Lincoln by a popular author contains the story about the incorrect change given in the New Salem store.

Rappaport, Doreen, and Kadir Nelson. *Abe's honest words: the life of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

Beautiful illustrations and free verse make this book stand out in the collection of Lincoln biographies for children. The book emphasizes Lincoln's honesty.

Thompson, Sarah L. , *What Lincoln Said*. HarperCollins, 2008 .

This book has colorful appealing illustrations by James Ransome and is a collection of readable Lincoln quotes that children can understand. It would be a great source for writing prompts and discussion topics.

Winnick, Karen B.. *Mr. Lincoln's whiskers* . Honesdale, PA.: Boyds Mills Press, 1996.

This delightful book contains a letter written by a letter written by a little girl who felt that candidate Lincoln might win more votes if he grew a beard. Lincoln responded that he did not want to be showing off! (That's honest!) However, he soon appeared with whiskers and wore a beard until the end of his life. The author has a website with activities at http://www.karenb Winnick.com/lincoln_reviews.html

Winters, Kay, and Nancy Carpenter. *Abe Lincoln: the boy who loved books*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003.

This book has beautiful illustrations and portrays Lincoln's great desire to learn. It is inspiring to see how much it meant to young Lincoln to be able to learn to read.