

## **ACTIVITY GUIDE**

### **AMERICA’S JOURNEY THROUGH SLAVERY: ABRAHAM LINCOLN THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR**

#### **Program Overview and Objective:**

This guide was developed as a supplement to be used in conjunction with the program “Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator”.

In 1861, the Civil War was a conflict that threatened to permanently divide the United States. Without President Abraham Lincoln’s leadership, courage and determination to maintain the Union, our country may have ceased to exist. From his childhood in Kentucky, to his election as President and his outspoken views against slavery, this program chronicles his life through re-enactments, maps and archival photographs.

#### **WHOLE CLASS ACTIVITIES**

##### ***Whole Class Activity #1***

Develop a time line of the life of Abraham Lincoln from his youth in Kentucky until his death after the American Civil War.

##### ***Whole Class Activity #2***

Present your students with a map of the United States. Have them locate the following places: Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, New Orleans, Washington, D.C. and South Carolina. Ask them to explain the important events that occurred at these places that impacted Abraham Lincoln’s life

## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

### ***Small Group Activity #1***

Have each group select and research a current political leader. Ask the group to great a Venn diagram that compares their chosen current political leader with Abraham Lincoln. Things to compare would be education, political views, party affiliation and the various issues they must deal with.

### ***Small Group Activity #2***

Have students view actual civil war photographs from <http://www.archives.gov/research/civil-war/photos>. Ask your students to pick one photograph and write a short story based on the people and events occurring in the picture.

## **INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Individual Activity #1***

Have each student pretend he or she is Abraham Lincoln. Ask them to write a speech explaining why they are opposed to slavery.

### ***Individual Activity #2***

Ask students to imagine they are soldiers fighting during the civil war. Have some students pretend they belong to the Union Army, and others to the Confederacy. Ask the students to write a letter home describing their views on the war and principles they are fighting for.

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