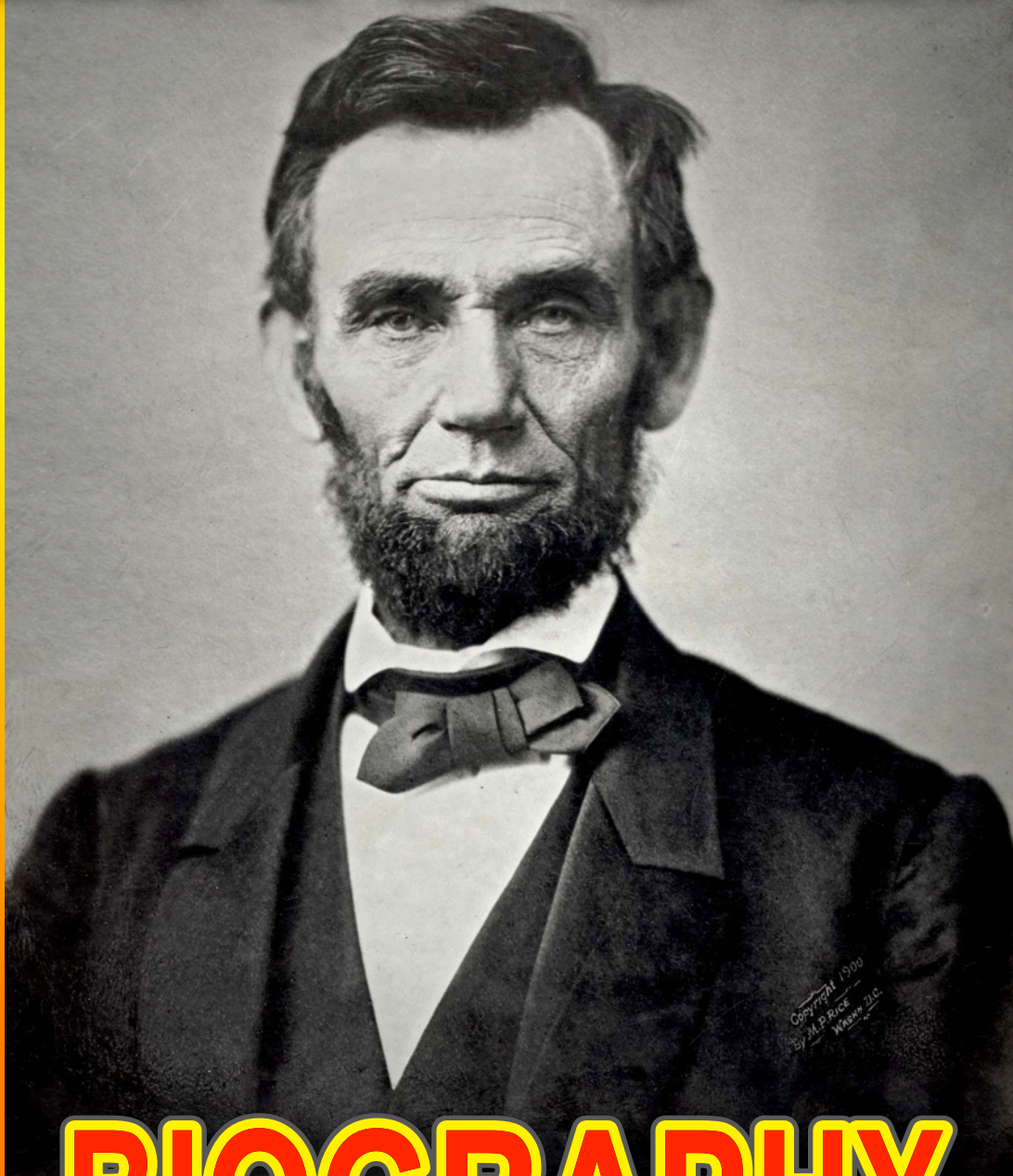


ABRAHAM LINCOLN



BIOGRAPHY

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Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 –April 15, 1865) was the first president to be assassinated. Lincoln is known for being president during the Civil War.

At the end of his term, he had seen the abolition of slavery and kept the Union together – if only by force, and he had strengthened the position of the federal government. He had even begun to modernize the economy. And all that happened in five short years. That is why he is often seen as one of the greatest presidents.

Lincoln was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky. He came from a poor background on the western frontier, and became a self-educated lawyer in Illinois. He was keen on anything that would help build a stronger America, including the founding of banks, building of railways and factories. As a result, the north surged ahead and became an economic powerhouse, while the south fell behind because it depended on farming and was not industrializing fast enough. He was against the war with Mexico and spoke out against slavery.

Lincoln was nominated for president by the Republican Party in 1860. He won despite no support from the southern states. But the result of his election was dramatic. Seven southern states immediately joined to form the Confederacy. The Confederates attacked Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, forcing Lincoln to get engaged in the war effort.

He put forward the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, using the Army to protect escaped slaves, and forced through the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which permanently outlawed slavery. Lincoln was a good commander, overseeing the strategy alongside his generals such as commanding general Ulysses Grant.

Lincoln blockaded the South so that it could not sell its farm products nor get armaments. Lincoln was a forceful leader when necessary, but also a moderate who wanted reconciliation with the south. He was hated by many as a result, and especially by those in the south, who plotted to assassinate him.

Lincoln was a great speaker, which meant he could, using newspapers, get his message over to the country. His most famous speech was the Gettysburg Address of 1863.

Six days after the surrender of Confederates, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer, at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. He is buried in Springfield, Illinois, the state he always thought of as his home.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'modernize'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'modernize' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'modernize'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'modernize'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'modernize' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: self-educated	self-taught

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

The southern states did not support Lincoln, but he won the election.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky, and educated himself to become a lawyer.

Lincoln pushed through the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Seven southern states then formed the Confederacy, and civil war broke out.

Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, while at the theater.

In 1863, Lincoln made the Gettysburg Address.

Lincoln was nominated for president in 1860.

Get to the facts

1 When was Lincoln nominated for president?

2 How many southern states formed the Confederacy?

3 What did Lincoln put forward in 1863?

4 What was Lincoln's most famous speech?

5 Who assassinated Lincoln?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

The assassination of President Lincoln

I was watching a play at Ford's Theater. I had heard that President Lincoln was in the audience somewhere. Suddenly, I heard a shot ring out, and people started shouting and screaming... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'modernize'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'modernize' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'modernize'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'modernize'.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – self-educated

Synonym – self-taught

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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