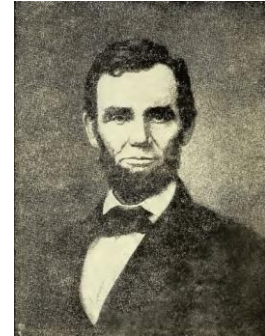


Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Addressⁱ

Lead-in

- The man in the picture opposite is one of the Presidents of the United States. Do you recognize which one he is?
- His nicknames are Honest Abe, The Great Emancipator, The Rail Splitter, and The Repairman. Do you think these are positive or negative?
- In your opinion, why do people call him so? Try to discuss each nickname and its possible connotations.



Watching

1. Match the following words and phrases (1-4) with their corresponding meanings (a-b)

1. Log cabin	a. Making a sound similar to the sound of a mouse or a rusty hinge
2. Awkward	b. Silly looking or ridiculous
3. Goofy looking	c. A small house built of wood
4. Squeaky	d. Clumsy

Video

Watch the video about President Abraham Lincoln. Answer the questions below. (Video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFABcUUJMrl>)

2. Choose the best answer the following multiple-choice questions. Then, watch the video to check your answers.

<p>1. Abraham Lincoln was</p> <p>a) Beloved b) Hated c) Unpopular</p> <p>2. Abraham Lincoln was nicknamed the repairman because</p> <p>a) He was a plumber b) He was a mechanic c) He fixed the broken nation</p> <p>3. What facts are known about Abraham Lincoln?</p> <p>a) He was tall and was born in a log cabin b) He was short and was born in a log cabin c) He was fat and short</p> <p>4. Lincoln wanted to</p> <p>a) Learn. b) Become a farmer. c) Become a hunter.</p>	<p>5. Abraham commanded attention because</p> <p>a) He had a great voice. b) He was attractive. c) He was eloquent.</p> <p>6. During the senate run in 1858, Lincoln's words made him.....</p> <p>a) Become senator. b) Lose the senate run. c) Lose the senate run but win the Republican nomination for president.</p> <p>7. Lincoln became president</p> <p>a) Before the civil war. b) After the civil war c) During the civil war.</p> <p>8. In 1865, the civil war ended by</p> <p>a) The north surrendering to the South b) The South surrendering to the North c) The assassination of Abe Lincoln.</p>
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3. Watch the video again and answer the following questions

1. What is Abe Lincoln's social background?
2. How did he manage to get his education?
3. What was his job?
4. How does Paul E. Begala, former White House aide, describe Abraham Lincoln?
5. What view did Abe Lincoln defend in his senate run against Stephen Douglas in 1858?
6. What role did Abraham Lincoln play in preserving the union?
7. What is Habeas Corpus and what was it about?
8. What was the Emancipation Proclamation about?
9. What does Prof. Melissa Harris say about the consistency of Lincoln's views of slavery and black equality?

Reading

1. State whether these statements are True or False then read the text to check your answers.

- a) Abraham Lincoln took the oath before giving his speech.
- b) Abraham Lincoln was a Republican.
- c) People of the Southern States were happy to have Abraham Lincoln as President.
- d) Abraham Lincoln was interested in abolishing slavery from the Southern States.

Monday, March 4, 1861

Fellow-Citizens of the United States:

In compliance with a custom as old as the Government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly and to take in your presence the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States to be taken by the President "before he enters on the execution of this office."

I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of administration about which there is no special anxiety or excitement. Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists." I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations and had never recanted them; and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:

"Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes."

I now reiterate these sentiments; and in doing so I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible that the property, peace, and security of no section are to be in anywise endangered by the now incoming Administration.

I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given will be cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause, as cheerfully to one section as to another.

(...)

No State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union; that *resolves* and *ordinances* to that effect are legally void, and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances.

I therefore consider that in view of the Constitution and the laws the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this I deem to be only a simple duty on my part, and I shall perform it so far as practicable unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withhold the requisite means or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary.

I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union that it *will* constitutionally defend and maintain itself.

In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority.

(...)

My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and *well* upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to *hurry* any of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take *deliberately*, that object will be frustrated by taking time; but no good object can be frustrated by it.

Such of you as are now dissatisfied still have the old Constitution unimpaired, and, on the sensitive point, the laws of your own framing under it; while the new Administration will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either.

If it were admitted that you who are dissatisfied hold the right side in the dispute, there still is no single good reason for precipitate action. Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulties.

In *your* hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in *mine*, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail *you*.

You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. *You* have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect, and defend it."

I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection.

The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

2. Read the text again and answer the following questions

1. Why does Abraham Lincoln have to give this speech?
2. Why does Abraham Lincoln think that people in the Southern States may worry about their property and security?
3. How does he reassure them that there is nothing to fear?
4. According to the text, why is it important to maintain each State's autonomy in managing its institutions?
5. How important is the Constitution to Abraham Lincoln? Explain.

3. Find words in the text with the following meanings

1. Something stated as a rule, especially in written form.	.....
2. Feeling of uneasiness and anticipation about the future; worry	.....
3. made a formal retraction or disavowal of a statement made previously	.....
4. To repeat something said or done again or repeatedly	.....
5. Impose something on someone to accept it	.....
6. Without legal validity	.....
7. A threat	.....
8. To attack or assault	.....
9. To be unwilling or reluctant to do something	.....
10. In this context, it means 'family' or 'home'	.....

4. Use the words from the exercise above in the right form to complete the sentences below.

- After years of travelling abroad, John returned to the family, the old house in Chicago.
- We need to send the supplier a note informing him that the contract is now because he did not accept the clauses of the contract.
- The boy was unsure of what to do and seemed to take action.
- The government continually its commitment to improve the living conditions of the people.
- The United Nations must find a solution to the of nuclear weapons.
- The mugger John and Marry when they were on their way home.
- I felt a lot better after taking the medication the doctor to me.
- The changes we made were us and it was not possible to say 'no.'
- The candidates have to any racial or terrorist beliefs to become full members.
- The worsening situation of the company has resulted in on the part of the shareholders.

Speaking

Discuss these sayings by Abraham Lincoln with your friend.

- A house divided against itself cannot stand.
- I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.
- Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Follow up

Choose one of the tasks below to do as homework.

- In the video you watched, there is mention of the Emancipation Proclamation and Habeas Corpus. Choose either of them and do some research on it, then talk to your classmates about it.
- The video mentions that Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin. Do you have any idea where that was and where he lived? Do some research on the internet and prepare a short talk to your classmates about this topic.
- Find information about the Civil War and write an essay about it. You can read your essay to your classmates.

KEY TO EXERCISES

Watching

1. 1. c - 2.d - 3.b - 4.a

2. 1.a) - 2.c) - 3.a) - 4.a) - 5.c) - 6.c) - 7.a) - 8.b)

3.

1. He is from a modest family.
2. He educated himself.
3. He was a lawyer.
4. He says that Lincoln was really tall, gangling and goofy looking and had a terribly high, squeaking voice.
5. He defended the idea that slavery violated the natural rights of the black people.
6. Lincoln did not allow the Southern States to secede from the Union and won the civil war.
7. Habeas Corpus is the right of a citizen to challenge unlawful imprisonment. President Lincoln suspended this right during the civil war.
8. It is a decision by President Lincoln to end slavery.
9. She says that he was ambivalent about the question of slavery and deeply ambivalent about black equality.

Reading

1. a) T b) T c) F d) F

2.

1. Because it was custom for any newly elected president to do so.
2. Because of his views about slavery, they were afraid he might impose on them to end slavery.
3. He reminds them of his previous speeches.
4. It is important because it preserves the balance of power that maintains the political stability of the Union.
5. Lincoln considers the constitution as his guide and law in assuming his responsibility as president of the United States.

3.

1. Prescribed - 2.Apprehension - 3.Recanted - 4.Reiterate - 5.Press upon - 6.Void -
7.Menace - 8.Assail - 9.Loath - 10.Hearthstone

4.

1. Hearthstone 2. void 3. Loath 4. reiterates 5. menace 6. assailed
7. prescribed 8. pressed upon 9. recant 10. apprehension

ⁱ The picture of President Lincoln and his speech on which this lesson plan is based are taken from the book *Speeches of Abraham Lincoln* by Abraham Lincoln, published by Dansville, N.Y.: F.A. Owen Pub. Co., available at <https://archive.org/details/speechesofabraham4415linc>. Retrieved 11/06/2013.