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Activity Guide

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A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln

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ABOUT THE STORY

Part of a picture book biography series designed to introduce beginning readers to famous Americans, *A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln* recreates Lincoln's America, portrays both the public and private man, and depicts the many trials and accomplishments of his presidency.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Adler grew up in a large family and got his start in storytelling by making up tales for his brothers and sisters. He received his M.B.A. from New York University and taught math to children for several years. He has written more than a hundred books, including picture book biographies of such notables as George Washington, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman (all Live Oak Readalongs).

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

John and Alexandra Wallner have worked both individually and as a team. Mrs. Wallner has illustrated materials for educational material and has illustrated many popular children's books as well.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain that Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States during the time of the Civil War (1861-1865). His two greatest accomplishments were that he succeeded in preserving the Union and that he abolished slavery in the U.S. Ask the group what they already know about Lincoln and why they feel the country has always honored the life and achievements of this man.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What did Abraham Lincoln see in New Orleans that made him so unhappy?"
- "What happened soon after Lincoln was elected President in 1860?"
- "How did President Lincoln die?"
- Why did people call Lincoln the 'Savior of the Union?'" (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Review the following words, names, and places with the group. Have them write a paragraph or two, using some of these words that reflect what they know about President Lincoln's life and times.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| -log cabin | -slave market | -steamboat |
| -United States Senate | -Springfield | -debates |
| -flatboat | -legislature | -government |
| -Gettysburg | -Civil War | -re-elected |
| -Pennsylvania | -surrendered | -Fort Sumter |
| -Gettysburg Address | -John Wilkes Booth | |

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Slavery

Define slavery as a condition in which persons are held as property by other persons and are obliged to perform labor or services for the person who owns them. Discuss what it must have been like to have been a slave. Why did most people in the South favor slavery while people in the North were against it?

History: Match the Dates

Write the following list of dates and events on the board. Ask volunteers to draw a line from the date in the first column to the event in the second column

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1809 | The Civil War is fought |
| 1842 | Lincoln is elected President |
| 1847-1849 | Lincoln married Mary Todd |
| 1858 | Lincoln is re-elected President |
| 1860 | Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation |
| 1861-1865 | Lincoln serves in the U.S. House of Representatives |
| 1863 | The Lincoln Douglas debate |
| 1864 | Lincoln is assassinated |
| 1865 | Lincoln is born |

Math: Time Line

Use the list of "Important Dates" in the back of the book to help create a time line to identify significant times in Lincoln's life. Draw a picture to correspond with the events in his life or what was happening in the country at the time.

Geography: North vs. South

During Lincoln's term as president, the country was in conflict. The North and South had different opinions about slavery. Using a map of the U.S., have the children identify the eleven states that were interested in creating a Confederate States of America (VA, NC, TN, AK, TX, LA, MI, AL, GA, SC, FL) and fought against the North in the Civil War.