

Abraham Lincoln Timeline for Kids

1809 to 1865

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin and grew up to be the 16th president of the United States. He led the country through a terrible war and helped end slavery. This timeline tells the story of his life.



1809

Born in a Log Cabin

Abraham Lincoln is born in Kentucky. His home is a log cabin with one room and a dirt floor. His family is poor.

Why it matters: He showed that a person from a poor family could become president.

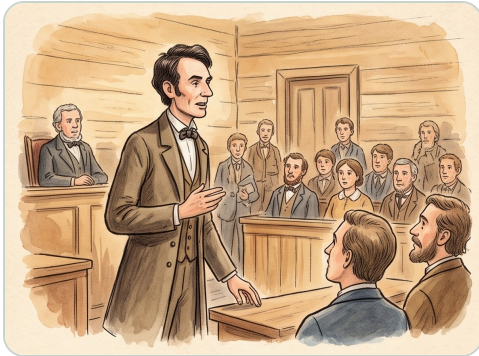


1816

A Boy Who Loved Books

The Lincoln family moves to Indiana. Abe helps on the farm. He goes to school for less than one year in all, but he reads every book he can find.

Why it matters: He taught himself most of what he knew.



1837

A Lawyer in Illinois

Lincoln moves to Springfield, Illinois. He works as a lawyer. People call him Honest Abe because he tells the truth.

Why it matters: People trusted him, and they began to vote for him.



1860

Elected President

Lincoln is elected the 16th president. The country is split over slavery. Soon, states in the South begin to leave the United States.

Why it matters: Lincoln said the country must stay together.

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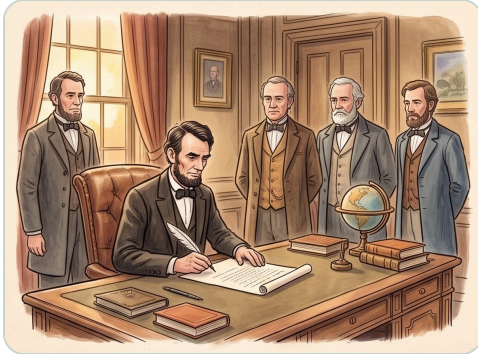


1861

The Civil War Begins

A war starts between the North and the South. It is called the Civil War. It lasts four years, and many people die.

Why it matters: Lincoln had to lead the country through its hardest time.

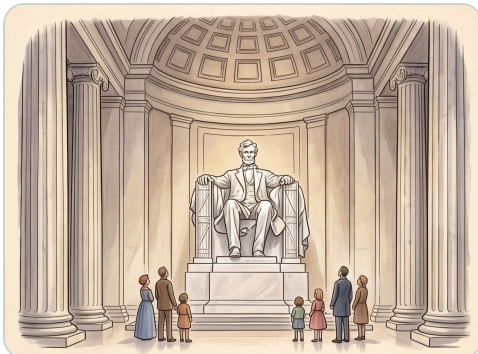


1863

Freedom

Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation. It says that enslaved people in the South are free. Later that year he gives a famous speech at Gettysburg.

Why it matters: The war was now a fight to end slavery.



1865

The War Ends

The North wins the war in April. A few days later, Lincoln is shot while watching a play. He dies the next morning. That year, slavery ends in the whole country.

Why it matters: Lincoln is remembered as one of the greatest presidents.

Words to know

log cabin: a small house made of logs

lawyer: a person whose job is to help people with the law

president: the leader of the United States

slavery: when people are owned by others and forced to work