

ABRAHAM MOVES TO SPRINGFIELD,

Information from James Baldwin's kids-friendly on-line biography *The Story of Abraham Lincoln*

Illinois House Representative, Abraham Lincoln, and a group of other Springfield area representatives had succeeded in getting the capitol of Illinois moved from Vandalia to Springfield.

From Baldwin: "The people of Springfield were so delighted that they urged Mr. Lincoln to come there and practice law. An older lawyer, whose name was John T. Stuart, and who had a good practice, offered to take him in partnership with him.

And so, in 1837, Abraham Lincoln left New Salem and removed to Springfield. He did not have much to move. All the goods that he had in the world were a few clothes, which he carried in a pair of saddle-bags, and two or three law books. He had no money, and he rode into Springfield on a borrowed horse.

He was then twenty-eight years old. From that time on, Springfield was his home."

Abraham would propose marriage to Mary Owens and got turned down. He would meet the very popular southern belle, Mary Todd. They would get engaged, break apart, get engaged again and marry. This was the beginning of the Lincoln family. Four sons would be born to them (Robert, Thomas, Willy and Eddy), and their first house would be purchased at 8th and Jackson Streets. Abraham's law career would flourish. Springfield loved the Lincoln family.

In her own words:



"My evil genius Procrastination has whispered me to tarry 'til a more convenient season." **Mary Todd Lincoln**

Mary Todd Lincoln Biographical Timeline of Significant Events

(Information from the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission website. The hyperlink for this is on the Book CD)

1818-- Born in 1818 to Eliza Parker and Robert Smith Todd. Mary Todd Lincoln lived in Lexington, Kentucky, for twenty years. Her father became a wealthy merchant and Whig party leader.

1825-- Her mother, Eliza Parker Todd, also descended from an affluent family, died in 1825. Thus began a series of deaths that marred Mary's life. "the childbed fevers" after the birth of her seventh child within twelve years. Robert Todd quickly replaced his first wife with a stepmother Mary hated.

- Nine household slaves served the large Todd family in an elegant brick home in Lexington.
- The Todd's were committed to an advanced education for their daughters and sons. Mary was an excellent student, and learned the basic curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic at John Ward's local school. When she was fourteen, she attended an all-girls boarding school on the outskirts of Lexington. There, her studies expanded to include languages and the traditional sewing and stitching. She continued to be a superior student, acclaimed for her performances in plays and her proficiency in French.
- **1838**-- Mary Todd left the social life of Lexington to live in her sister's home in Springfield, Illinois. Such independence for young women was unusual for the times. But Mary did not want to live with her stepmother.
- Her beloved sister Elizabeth had set up a household in the rapidly growing new Illinois capital. In her sister's and brother-in-law's home she met Abraham Lincoln, an aspiring Whig politician and state legislator. Other men, mostly politicians like Senator Stephen Douglas, courted the attractive Mary Todd. Dances, sleigh-rides, and railroad expeditions brought the young people of the new capital together.
- **1842**-- The gangly Abraham Lincoln asked for her hand for marriage. She accepted, but they would break up, and would get married in 1842 in Elizabeth's home.
- **1842**-- Then followed Mary Lincoln's domestic years—the birth of her four sons (and the death of her beloved Eddie in 1850 from tuberculosis), the management of her home, and her support of her.

Mary Lincoln was unusually ambitious for what she called “our Lincoln party.” An excellent hostess, she invited important politicians to the Lincoln home husband’s emerging political career.

1860--When Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he hurried home, calling out “Mary, Mary, we are elected.”

1861-1865-- Mary Lincoln’s four years in the White House began with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter and ended with her husband’s death.

During our country’s hardest and saddest times, Mary Todd would define the First Lady’s role. Along with the role as mother to her three remaining boys, she would oversee very expensive and much-needed and tasteful improvements to the White House. Washington D.C. was actually in the South, and many southerners and northerners would mistrust Mary Todd Lincoln. Much criticism would be received by the government and the President. Elegantly dressed, she presided over receptions and soirees. She would push and help her husband to attend all of these events.

- Their only semblance of normality would be when the family would move out to the Old Soldier’s Home outside the city during the warm months.
- Mary Todd Lincoln also visited wounded soldiers in Washington hospitals and raised money for the former slaves who flocked into the city during the Civil War.
- She also recognized the extent to which social gatherings in the Red and Gold Rooms provided opportunities for foreign diplomats, congressmen, military leaders and common soldiers to meet the president.
- **1862**-- Mary and Abraham lost her son Willie to typhoid fever.
- **1865**--Then her husband died from an assassin’s bullet on April 13.
- **1865-1871**-- A devastated Mary Lincoln now began her years of wandering. Leaving Washington for Chicago, she was accompanied by her eldest son, twenty-three year old Robert, and her youngest son, twelve year-old Tad. But she was unable to afford a home in Chicago. Mary took Tad to Germany where he attended school in Frankfurt. She traveled to European spas. She sought out spiritualists, believing that mediums could put her in touch with her dead sons and husband.

1871-- Then in 1871 Tad died of pleurisy in a Chicago hotel.

1875—Mary’s son Robert Lincoln directed legal efforts to have his mother

committed to a private mental institution outside of Chicago. Never insane, she remained in the asylum only four months. But Mary Lincoln was convinced that her son would try to send her back to an institution. So she fled to Pau, a city near the Pyrenees in southern France. She lived there alone for four years.

1879-- Eventually, her declining health forced her to return to the United States, where she lived quietly with her sister Elizabeth Edwards in Springfield

· **1882**—Mary Lincoln died July 16th 1882, from a stroke. She was sixty-three years-old.

Wife and Mother of Four Boys: How Mary Lincoln did it

In this bit of history, I would like to provide some information about the Lincoln household. Billy Herndon, Abraham's law partner, did not seem to appreciate Mary. Mary was raised in a home of some means. There were twenty household slaves to take care of the Todd family. Mary would marry Abraham, who was socially below Mary in standing. Her sister, Elizabeth was married to the governor of Illinois. Springfield was still a typical small city with dirt roads, but after becoming the state capitol all of the high of society in Illinois would gather in the city.

Abraham Lincoln quickly became a top-notch trial lawyer. The Lincoln family income was good for the times. The problem with Lincoln's law practice was that for several years he would be gone working the circuit. Mary would be responsible for taking care of the boys and the house at 8th and Jackson. She did have household workers in the house to help out, but historians often describe Mary Todd Lincoln as a mother that could take care of all needs of the children and the household from cooking, cleaning, and even sewing.

Besides her boys, she also felt a responsible for caring for and guiding her husband's welfare. She would make sure he was on the right track politically, socially and personally. She could talk politics and maybe even share advice to him on legal matters, but we don't know whether Mary would know about legal matters from his office. Looking at the way Father Abraham would devote his time to his boys when at

home, it is doubtful if the 21st century tradition of taking work home would have occurred in the Lincoln household.

Mary always thought her husband would be President some day. It happened. Abraham had the burning desire to advance, and Mary helped to make it come true.

Here are some areas that will help to describe the areas of household management and 19th century traditions, to help us understand the Lincoln home.

City-life Clothing Used by the Lincoln Family

Information available from an online article based upon these book resources:
Baker, Jean H. *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography* (W.W. Norton: New York, 1987), 429 p.
Donald, David Herbert. *We are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends* (Simon & Schuster, 2003), 269 p. The best way to determine how the Lincolns and their children dressed is to observe and evaluate the various images available.

The Lincoln Boys:

1. As very young boys during the 19th century, the Lincoln boys were not totally typical. Dresses were very common for formal portraiture with little boys. There are not a lot of :”photographs” of the boys at a very young age, but a “dress” style of outfit could be seen on an Eddie Lincoln portrait. Abraham Lincoln was very much into having family photographs made, as he, himself, was the first President to be recorded regularly with the new photographic tools.



Eddie Lincoln portrait with the typical “dress” style of clothing



Lincoln family wax sculpture in the foyer of the Lincoln Presidential Museum



An early ambrotype of Willie (Chicago History Museum photograph)

2. As the boys would grow up, they would begin wearing what is called breeches.

These were a pant that would go down below the knee and be drawn by string. Long stockings would be worn with these.

3. The later photos of the boys show that they would wear the breeches with a sort of short jacket having one button, and often left unbuttoned. This was the style for young boys.
4. The boys would wear long trousers as they got older. Their outfits would look like a suit, as we know today, only the jacket would be a short style.
5. In 1860, boys' styles went back to the breeches, but the Lincoln boys wore long pants. This would be the White House years.
6. The boys' clothing would be purchased in city stores.
7. Mary Lincoln did a lot of the household chores, including cooking, but did have servant help, and it could be that the servant would take care of washing the boys' clothes.
8. As with 19th century living, there would not be a lot of extra clothing (except for Mary), and clothes would be worn for longer periods of time. The Lincoln boys would travel to the office with Abraham often-times, and would dress appropriately to be around the society of Springfield, and in the White House.
9. Mother Mary Lincoln was personally into high-fashion, but dressed her boys very commonly, probably realizing they were very active players in about any situation, and high-fashion for them would not be practical.
10. The Lincoln boys were a bit rowdy. Getting involved in "messy" activities, and no doubt played havoc with their clothing.

"Mother" Mary Todd Lincoln

(She was called Mother by Abraham and the boys):

1. Mary Todd Lincoln was raised in high "Kentucky" society, and was highly educated. She loved high-fashion, and a large part of the Lincoln family budget was spent on her clothing.
2. Mary had servant ladies to help her in often-times making her own clothing.

Fabric would be purchased in city stores, and/or ordered from New York City or even European locations.

3. She would have her dresses fashioned to match the current styles. 19th century Victorian styles included bright colors, flower patterns, laces, and of course the very wide hoop skirts.
4. She is seen in photos with decorative and flowery hair displays.
5. Mary would wear dress gloves and carry the popular fan.
6. Many and Abraham would attend to many formal parties or social affairs while at Springfield, and very often in the White House.

"When Lincoln rose to speak, I was greatly disappointed. He was tall, tall--oh, how tall! and so angular and awkward that I had, for an instant, a feeling of pity for so ungainly a man....But pretty soon he began to get into his subject; he straightened up, made regular and graceful gestures; his face lighted as with an inward fire; the whole man was transfigured. I forgot his clothes, his personal appearance, and his individual peculiarities. Presently, forgetting myself, I was on my feet with the rest, yelling like a wild Indian, cheering this wonderful man." --A literary critic who heard Lincoln's 1860 Cooper Union address in New York

Abraham Lincoln, Lawyer and President: his clothing

1. Abraham Lincoln had not been out of the pioneer life style very much of his life, after moving to Springfield in the early 1840's. He was very comfortable wearing buckskin, and coarse woven pants and shirts. He would not have been much different than us modern-day people that like to wear jeans and a comfortable shirt. He did, though, try to dress with the style of what other lawyers wore in the courtrooms.
2. At over 6' 4" tall, with very long arms and legs, Abraham Lincoln always had trouble "purchasing" clothing out of the store. He was often-times seen with pants too short, sleeves too short.
3. He really didn't care about being polished and high-style. Mary was very different in these desires.
4. He wore black boots with square toes, a black long jacket with black trousers. He would also wear a vest and the ever-present pocket watch.
5. Abraham's trademark, and very common for the times, tall stovepipe hat would also serve as a portable file cabinet for important papers.

6. As seen in an 1860 pre-presidential photo, he could wear a white coat.
7. At formal functions, Mary would highly encourage him to wear white gloves. He didn't like them, but usually cooperated with her.
8. It was known that President Abraham Lincoln would get blisters on his hands from shaking the hands of guests at White House parties and functions.
9. If someone in an audience would make a comment about his appearance, he would often counter with a humorous story or comment about how he looked, and that he had only one face, and had to live with it.

What did Abraham Lincoln like to eat? According to the food historians:

"Just as so much about [Abraham Lincoln's] life has been shrouded in latter-day myth and legend, making it difficult to assess the truth about the man." So, too, have his food habits and taste been the subject of controversy. If the only records extant were the menus of his state balls and banquets, one would, justifiably, conclude that Abraham Lincoln must have been a gourmet to end gourmets, a connoisseur of exquisite sensitivity, a bon vivant supreme. Nothing could be further from the truth.

On the other hand, certain observers of the time (and later observers of those observers) dogmatically asserted that Lincoln was "almost entirely indifferent to food except that he liked apples and hot coffee."

Helen Dupre Bullock, Historian of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has written: "Authorities agree that Lincoln was indifferent to food, not particularly knowing or caring what was placed before him, whether it was cold or hot, and even whether he ate it or not. If not reminded of meal times he forgot them." Still another writer asserted that Lincoln "was one of the most abstemious of men; the pleasures of the table had few charms for him. His breakfast was an egg and a cup of coffee; at luncheon he rarely took more than a biscuit and a glass of milk, a plate of fruit in its season; at dinner he ate sparingly of two courses." Contradictory evidence comes from Colonel William H. Crook, the President's bodyguard. He wrote: "Mr. Lincoln was a hearty eater. He never

lost his taste of the things a growing farmer's boy would like. He was particularly fond of bacon.

Plentiful and wholesome food was one of the means by which he kept up his strength which was taxed almost beyond endurance in those days [1862]." It seems to us that the food truth about Lincoln must lie somewhere between these extreme points of view. In the pattern of so many of our strongest Presidents (always, of course, excepting Jefferson), Lincoln relied on food to feed the furnace. He ate well when served a tasty meal, but was usually so preoccupied with problems of politics and power that he gave little thought to food unless faced with it. Then he could enjoy a delicious meal as well as the next one. One aspect of Abraham Lincoln's characteristically gentle nature was apparent in his approach to food. His stepmother, Mrs. Thomas Lincoln, commented that "Abe was a moderate eater--he sat down and ate what was set before him, making no complaint. He seemed careless about this."

Temperamentally...Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln were totally unlike...This was striking apparent when it came to food and food history. Although both came originally from Kentucky, they reflected two completely different Kentucky traditions. Mary had been raised in the lush bluegrass region of the state, where gracious, comfortable living and rich, elaborate cooking was legendary. Abe grew up on the frontier, where he ate very plain food, partly for economic reasons, partly because of the frontier tradition.

Corn dodgers, cakes made of coarse cornmeal, were a staple. Wild game provided the protein a growing boy needed. During the days of young manhood, where he boarded at the Rutledge Tavern in New Salem, his diet consisted largely of cornbread, mush, bacon, eggs, and milk. Several friends of that period recalled later that if Abe was partial to any one food it was honey, a great delicacy for him at the time."

---*The Presidents' Cookbook*, Poppy Cannon and Patricia Brooks [Funk & Wagnall's: New York City] 1968 (p. 236-7)

"Family meals at the Lincolns' were routine. Early in the morning the President liked a "good hot cup of coffee." But often he would forget about breakfast until 9 or 10A.M.

John Hay, one of Lincoln's privilege secretaries, occasionally ate with the President. He noted that the frugal repast might consist of "an egg, a piece of toast, coffee, etc." On occasion breakfast was a single egg. For lunch, Hay reported, Lincoln "took a little lunch--a biscuit, a glass of milk in winter, some fruit or grapes in summer...He ate less than anyone I know. "Lunch was usually eaten irregularly..."

---ibid (p. 239)

This book also contains several modernized recipes for Lincoln's favorite foods, including Nob Creek Kentucky Corn Cakes, Rail Splitters (corn muffins), Nancy Hanks' Steamed Potatoes, Rutledge Tavern Squash Pie, New Salem Fruit Pies, Gooseberry Cobbler etc. If you need to make something for class tomorrow let us know. We can send you a recipe.]

What kind of cook was Mary Todd Lincoln?

Mary Todd Lincoln was born to a wealthy family in Lexington Kentucky. As such, she was well schooled in the fine aspects of social etiquette rather than the practical arts of domestic life. Her biographers note Mary's early frugality and preference for simplicity. Her entertainments were well attended and, as one might expect, grew lavish in the White House period. She was especially fond of strawberries, and enjoyed giving strawberry sociable's, where these fine fruits were combined with cake and ice cream.

"By the 1840s improved methods of salting and icing allowed Mary Lincoln to keep food longer than her mother could. Imported oysters, a delicacy on local menus, could be preserved for weeks by bountiful washing in salted water and some help from the weather. A few heretics (Mary Lincoln was not usually one of them) no longer baked bread, depending, instead, on a wagon that delivered bread, crackers, and cakes three times a week.

The Springfield stores were beginning to sell prepared butter, and in season local farmers brought vegetables and fruits down Jackson Street for the unfixed prices that proper ladies were not supposed to contest. Penny-pinching Mary Lincoln was among those who violated the prescription that ladies don't beat down prices, and she had

several public battles with the fruit peddler over the prices of his less than perfect strawberries...Lincoln was never a fussy eater, and was satisfied most mornings with an apple for his breakfast. Still, he would be home for dinner in the middle of the day, and only delinquent housekeepers kept men waiting.

But in Mary Lincoln's home it was the husband whose casual sense of time and lack of appetite made regular hours an impossibility...Sometimes Abraham helped out by shopping...Even with improved technology and help with marketing, cooking took up the largest part of Mary Lincoln's day. Some Springfield women relished their culinary labors and earned awards at the country fair for their pickles, preserves, cakes and pies...Mary never entered those competitions, or at least she never won a prize. The one household product for which she was remembered--what the family circulated as Mary's recipe for white cake--was a simplified gloss on the more complicated version of a standard cake...Having grown up without practical experience in cooking, Mary relied on Kentucky staples. Years later, amid the haute cuisine of France, she fondly remembered the "waffles, batter cakes, and egg cornbread--not to mention "buckwheat cakes" of Lexington.

The Lincoln menu was also full of what Mrs. Trollope disparaged as America's "sempiternal ham," and Mary Lincoln's frugality encouraged the appearance of cheap local game, such as woodchucks, pheasants, and prairie chickens. In any case, she learned to do what the slaves had done in Lexington: roast coffee, make calf's-foot jelly, preserve fruit, and prepare cheese. In the summer the kitchen ran her, and it was both the repetitiveness and the lack of control that led disaffected matrons to compare themselves to slaves.

By 1851, after nearly ten years of housekeeping, Mary Lincoln had progressed to an advanced version of Miss Leslie's Cookery, purchasing this, along with Miss Leslie's House Book or Manual of Domestic Economy for Town and Country...In the more difficult version there were recipes for everything from family soup to invalid cookery of beef tea and blackberry preserve...Because she had not learned the vices of sugar and, like everyone in Springfield, innocently believed it the "most nourishing substance in

nature," she spent hours making puddings, cakes, candies, and cookies.

By modern standards, the Lincoln household consumed a vast amount of sugar...Some of these sweets were eaten by others, for if Mary Lincoln was a novice cook, she was a practiced hostess with an easy charm that obscured any shortcomings in her menus. Her contemporary Julia Jayne Trumbull acknowledged her as the "prettiest talker in Springfield,"..."Mary Lincoln often entertained small numbers of friends at dinner and somewhat larger numbers at evening parties. Her table was famed for the excellence of its rare Kentucky dishes and in season was loaded with venison, wild turkeys, prairie chickens and quail and other game" ...In her kitchen at Eighth and Jackson Mary Lincoln relied on simple fare, offering her guests not four courses but tea and cakes and strawberries in season. "This last week, we gave a strawberry company of about seventy," she wrote in 1859. "If your health will admit of venturing out, in such damp weather," stated one Mary Lincoln invitation, "we would be much pleased to have you, Mr. B., and the young ladies come round, this eve about seven and pass a social evening." By seven Mason and Mary Brayman would have eaten their middle-of-the-day dinner as well as their supper, leaving the hostess responsible only for dessert.

Unlike some of her friends and family, Mary Lincoln did not use her cooking for charitable purposes...though she often invited friends from the...church for tea and cakes...By the mid-1850s Lincoln's prominence required substantial entertainments, and with money available from his successful law practice, Mary Lincoln hosted large receptions--what in the East passed a levees. On the prairies, as elsewhere, French was the language of sociability, used by Mary and her friends to distinguish their grandest affairs from the even more elegant soirees or "grand fetes." .Instead, she simply put food on the table, and the crowds poured into the house to eat it..."

---*Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, Jean H. Baker [W.W. Norton: New York] 1987 (p. 109-113)

At the table, Mr. Lincoln seldom overindulged. "Abe was a moderate Eater and I now have no remembrance of his Special dish: he Sat down and ate what was set before him, making non complaint: he seemed Careless about this. I cooked his meals

for nearly 15 years,” recalled stepmother Sarah Bush Lincoln.”²⁷ Cousin John Hanks described him as “a good hearty eater.”²⁸ Another, younger Lincoln relative, Harriet A. Chapman recalled that “Mr. Lincoln was what I Call a hearty eater and enjoyed a good meal of victuals as much as enny one I ever knew. I have often heard him say that he could eat corn cakes as fast two women could make them.”²⁹ One New Salem resident recalled that Mr. Lincoln “Was a fast eater, though not a very hearty one.” He remembered that young Lincoln had a special fondness for honey. “Whenever he went to [James] S[hort]’s house he invariably asked his wife for some bread & honey. And he liked a great deal of bee bead in it.”

On the Eighth Judicial Circuit each spring and fall, Mr. Lincoln seldom complained of the miserable food the lawyers were served in country inns. Judge David Davis recalled Mr. Lincoln once proclaiming “Well – in the absence of anything to Eat I will jump into this Cabbage.”³⁰ Attorney Henry C. Whitney said that Mr. Lincoln was “an incompetent judge” of food. “He could not discern between well and ill-cooked and served food.”³¹

Eating habits of the President at the White House

<http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Library/newsletter.asp?ID=25&CRLI=105>

In Washington, President “Lincoln ate heartily but not to excess; he was particularly fond of certain things, especially apples, and Mrs. Lincoln always had a sufficiency of this fruit chosen carefully and ready at hand,” recalled White House guard William H. Crook.³² Mr. Lincoln specially enjoyed fruit and nuts. “Mr. Lincoln was a great eater of apples,” recalled Springfield attorney Charles S. Zane.

LET’S LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LINCOLN FAMILY, POLITICS AND
SPRINGFIELD IN THE 1840’S

The Lincolns: A Family Reunion Pageant

In order to make a special celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, have your students do reading about Lincoln and his family. Many on-line and book resources are available. Organize your class to do a pageant, as such, to present their knowledge of the 16th President's life while living at Springfield, Illinois.

The pageant will be introduced by Lincoln lawyer partner and friend William (Billy) Herndon. He has left us with volumes of memories about Abraham Lincoln at Springfield, before Springfield, and while President.

The pageant is organized into several short presentations (readings) by the students.

[This pageant is presented as if all were living at once, which did not happen in real life, as can be revealed in birth/death dates]

Here are exact dates of family births and deaths:

Robert was born August 1, 1843. He died July 26, 1926

Eddie was born March 10, 1846. He died February 1st, 1850

Willie was born December 21st, 1850. He died February 20, 1862

Tad was born April 4, 1857. He died July 15, 1871

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 and was assassinated April 14, 1865

Mary Todd Lincoln was born December 13, 1818, and died at Springfield in Elizabeth's home, July 16, 1882

Fido, the family dog was left at Springfield, and not taken to Washington D.C. Many pets were acquired for the White House. Old Bob may have been taken to Washington, but we don't know for sure. Abraham would often ride a horse called Jeff (actually was a captured horse of Jefferson Davis)

The Characters & Parts

Master of Ceremonies:
Billy Herndon

Meeting Abraham

Meet Mary Todd

Tad about Tadpole

Eddie and His Brothers

Willie, Like his Father

Fido and Old Bob

Elizabeth Edwards, Mary's Older
Sister

Robert and his Brothers

Harriet Hanks,
Abraham's Cousin

Ann Todd, Mary's Sister

Frances (Fanny) Todd,
Mary's Sister

Special Demonstrations

Language of the Fan

Rail Splitting

Log Cabin Building

Rail Fence Building

Conclusion

The President Reads the
Gettysburg Address

This dramatic presentation is based upon readings. An alternative means of planning this activity for older students would be to actually research a character and then compose their own scripts. Guidelines as to how long each script should be would help to make the drama run smoothly and quickly. A few run-throughs with the students will make a really nice presentation. Simple costumes such as a large tall Lincoln hat (poster board) work well for Lincoln. The Lincoln children could wear dark pants or jeans and a white shirt. For the female parts, long dresses and even long dress gloves look nice.

Have fun in this dramatic presentation.

The demonstrations require these objects: small (8-10 inch long and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch strips of hardwood actually split and cut to length; Lincoln logs set for a cabin; and lap-fold paper fans.

***The Lincolns: from Springfield, Illinois
A Fact and Art Project: make your own Picture Album of the Lincolns***

This is a project in which students will read about the Abraham and Mary Lincoln

family members. Any good biographical source will provide lots of information. After reading a resource, the questions below should be answered. The online version of this project has hyperlinks to good resources to find the answers.

An antique-looking picture frame template can be made and copied on pages for each portrait drawing. The student will draw and color each Lincoln family member. A special display of each student's drawings and question answers could be made.

This could also be a small group project, in which the family members and questions are divided up for research and work by small groups.

Abraham

Mary Todd

Robert

Willie

Eddy

Tad

Bob

Fido

1. Which son is sitting with his father (Abraham) in the only photo of a family member with Abraham known? What was he reading to his son?

Draw a picture of what was in the book (clue-- involves people)

2. What little girl wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln advising him to grow a beard?

Draw a picture of how he looked before becoming President (close-up with details)

3. When did Abraham & Mary get married?

Draw a Picture of what their wedding cake might have looked like

4. Abraham, the lawyer had three law partners while in Springfield. What was the name of Abe's 3rd third partner?

Draw a picture of what you think Lincoln's desk would have looked like.

5. What was the address of the first and only home the Lincolns ever owned?

Draw a map showing where their house was positioned, the old capitol building and Lincoln's Law Office

6. When were each of the Lincoln boys born?

Draw a picture of the Lincoln family

7. What did Abraham Lincoln do for a living while living in the Lincoln home?

Draw a picture of your favorite courthouse

8. Abraham Lincoln gave one of his most important speeches in Springfield in June of 1858. What was the theme of this great speech, and where was it given?

Make a poster advertising the great speech he gave, as if you are inviting people to

listen to it.

9. The Lincolns had a dog. The boys loved the dog, and Abraham would often take him for walks. What is the name and color of the Lincoln family dog? What happened to the dog when the Lincolns had to move to Washington?

Draw a picture of a Lincoln family member walking the dog

10. Where was Mary Todd born and raised?

Draw a picture of the home where she was born and raised

11. Where did Mary take the boys to church?

Draw a picture of the old church

12. In 1860, there was a very important meeting in the Lincoln home. What was the meeting about? What would happen soon after this meeting?

Draw a picture of what Abraham Lincoln looked like before the big event?

13. Abraham Lincoln was also called "Tall Lincoln." Why was he called this? How tall was he?

Draw a picture of Lincoln, stressing Lincoln's height

14. Abraham Lincoln practiced law "on the circuit." He traveled around on old Bob, or in a carriage to courthouses all around Illinois. Where is an actual surviving courthouse that Lincoln, the Country Lawyer, practiced?

Draw a picture of one of the courthouses.

15. The old Illinois capitol in Springfield was a popular place for Abraham to meet with the other lawyers and tell stories. Which room of the old Capitol is where these stories were most often told?

Make up a short story as Lincoln might have told and make a picture to go with it.

16. Abraham and Mary purchased a home in Springfield. When did they do this?

Draw a picture of their house after the second floor was added

17. Abraham was a circuit rider for the courts in Illinois. At times he even had to serve as a Judge. What was the name of the case where the cows ate the corn without permission? Who won the case? Draw a picture of the cow eating the corn.