

Lesson Plan: Abraham Lincoln Bust

Transcript Summary

In this episode of Sketch and Coffee Live at 5:30am Texas time, Blade sketched a bust of Abraham Lincoln while discussing his presidency, wrestling career, early political life, and inventive side. The conversation included Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican-American War with his "Spot Resolutions," his unique status as the only U.S. president to hold a patent, and his love of gadgets as recalled by his law partner William Herndon. Blade also noted Lincoln's interactions with inventors like Cyrus McCormick, his rise to prominence through the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and his issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. A viewer question confirmed that the Lincoln automobile brand was indeed named after President Lincoln.

Episode link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/CMH2cbD94r4?si=eXpiumXE52eur7B5>

Title

Abraham Lincoln Bust: From Wrestling Ring to Emancipation

Objective

Students will learn about Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy through nine key facts, connecting his personal interests, political actions, and presidency to broader themes of American history.

Materials

- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Paper and pencils/pens
- Printout of the 9 Fun Facts list
- Optional: image of the Lincoln bust or a classroom-safe video clip about Lincoln

Introduction

Begin with a discussion about how different leaders are remembered. Ask students: why do some presidents get statues or busts? Introduce Abraham Lincoln as the 16th president and note that he remains one of the most recognized figures in American history.

Activity

Divide students into small groups. Assign each group one fun fact from the list and have them create a short poster or skit that explains why that detail is important to understanding Lincoln. Groups will share their work with the class.

Assessment

- Short written response: Which fun fact surprised you the most, and why?
- Oral participation in group work and discussion
- Teacher observation of group activity presentations

Conclusion

Review the nine fun facts about Lincoln. Emphasize how his life combined physical strength, curiosity for invention, and a determination to preserve the Union. Connect Lincoln's story to the idea that leaders are shaped by many aspects of their character, not just their time in office.

Rubric

Criteria	4 – Excellent	3 – Good	2 – Fair	1 – Needs Improvement
Understanding	Shows clear and deep understanding of Lincoln facts	Shows good understanding with minor gaps	Partial understanding	Minimal or incorrect understanding
Participation	Fully engaged in group and class discussions	Participates most of the time	Limited participation	Rarely participates
Presentation	Clear, creative, and accurate explanation	Clear but less creative	Somewhat clear but missing detail	Unclear or inaccurate
Reflection	Thoughtful and insightful response	Solid response	Basic response	Little to no response

9 Fun Facts About Abraham Lincoln

1. Lincoln Was the 16th President During the Civil War Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th president of the United States from 1861 until his assassination in 1865. He guided the nation through the Civil War and worked to preserve the Union.

Source: <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/bios/abraham-lincoln>

2. Lincoln Was a Wrestling Champion In his youth, Lincoln was an accomplished wrestler. He reportedly had around 300 matches with only one recorded loss, and he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1992.

Source: https://nwhof.org/hall_of_fame/bio/128

3. Lincoln's Early Political Career Lincoln began his political life in the Illinois State Legislature during the 1830s, serving four terms as a state representative. He later moved onto the national stage, serving a single term in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1847 to 1849.

Source: <https://millercenter.org/president/lincoln/life-before-the-presidency>

4. Lincoln Opposed the Mexican-American War While in Congress, Lincoln challenged President Polk's justification for the Mexican-American War. He introduced the "Spot Resolutions," demanding proof of the exact location where blood had been shed to start the conflict.

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lincoln-resolutions>

5. Lincoln Was the Only U.S. President With a Patent In 1849, Lincoln patented a device designed to lift boats over river shoals and sandbars using buoyant chambers. He remains the only American president to hold a patent.

Source: <https://www.yospinlaw.com/2016/02/12/abraham-lincolns-patent>

6. His Law Partner Noted His Love of Gadgets Lincoln's longtime law partner, William Herndon, described him as endlessly curious about inventions and mechanical devices. Herndon's recollections show that Lincoln enjoyed examining new tools and tinkering with ideas beyond the courtroom.

Source: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/38483/38483-h/38483-h.htm>

7. Lincoln Crossed Paths With Inventors Like Cyrus McCormick

Through his legal and political work in Illinois, Lincoln encountered inventors such as Cyrus McCormick, creator of the mechanical reaper. His curiosity about engineering kept him close to innovation.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cyrus-McCormick>

8. The Lincoln-Douglas Debates Put Him on the Map In 1858, Lincoln debated Senator Stephen A. Douglas across Illinois. Though he lost the Senate race, the debates made him nationally known and paved the way for his presidential run.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/debates.htm>

9. The Emancipation Proclamation Changed the War In 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring enslaved people in Confederate states to be free. It redefined the Civil War as a fight for liberty as well as Union.

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation>

Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Review

1. Who was Abraham Lincoln, and what years did he serve as president?
2. How many wrestling matches did Lincoln reportedly have, and how many did he lose?
3. What political office did Lincoln hold before becoming president?

Discussion

4. Why did Lincoln introduce the "Spot Resolutions"?
5. Why is it significant that Lincoln holds a U.S. patent?

Data Analysis

6. If Lincoln wrestled about 300 matches and lost only once, what percentage of his matches did he win? Show your work.

Reflection

7. Which of the nine fun facts do you think best shows Lincoln's character? Why?