Abraham Lincoln Notes

1) What do you know about Lincoln?

Background

Grew up very poor in Kentucky, Parents were farmers and Abolitionists. Moved to Indiana when three because Kentucky became a Slave State. Mother died when he was nine, father remarried Sara Bush Johnson. Lincoln loved both of his mothers and is going to say “All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my Angel Mother.” He never went to school as a boy but mother taught him how to read using Bible, and a children’s book about George Washington. His life will be defined by these two books, loves the Bible and his childhood hero is Washington.

Personal traits and growing up facing adversity

At the age of 21 he didn’t want to be a Farmer so moved to Springfield Illinois. By 21 he is 6 feet 4 inches tall, skinny, awkward, speaks with a hick accent and lurches around taking awkward big steps. Tries multiple professions but fails at all of them.

-Float Boatman (floats up and down the Mississippi river hauling goods, gets to see what America is like in the North and the South, street smarts education.)

-Opens his own convenience store but it fails after a few months because he always gives stuff away without people paying.

-Mailman, Surveyor fails at both

-Becomes a Solider but cannot shoot a gun or march in step.

-Finally at age 26 he finds his profession as a Lawyer (gets a formal education and is extremely smart) rags to riches story

Marries his best Friend and soul mate Mary Todd

Political Career

Enters politics, joins the Free Soilers political party opposing the spread of Slavery. By the age of 40 tired of Politics and retires from Politics.

Reenters politics and gains national recognition debating Stephen Douglas, great debates over who should have power Federal Government or State Government

Looses many elections between 1850 and 1860

Wins the Election of 1860 and creates the Republican Party

Beginning the day he is elected and until his death he is in fear of being assassinated.

3 of 4 kids will die before they reach the age of 20.

Ending Slavery

What would Lincoln say to this person?

*c.1850 “I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races. I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people.” There is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality.”*

Why did Lincoln free the Slaves?

*1859- My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.*

LINCOLN FREED THE SLAVES TO PRESERVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. (Lincoln said both of these quotes.)

1863- Emancipation Proclamation- Freed the Slaves only in South, not freeing slaves in the Border States like Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware. Overall only about 200,000 people were freed.

Why did Lincoln do the Emancipation Proclamation?

Does the reason behind Lincoln freeing the slaves change his legacy?

He does change overtime and grows to love African Americans. Fredrick Douglas (Black Abolitionist and Lincoln’s personal friend) said of Lincoln’s. “In all my interviews with Mr. Lincoln I was impressed with his entire freedom from prejudice against the colored race.”

1864- 13th Amendment- Banned Slavery throughout the United States.

Assassination

April 14, 1865 he is assassinated in Ford Theater by John Wilkes Booth dies the next day.

Mary Todd goes insane because of the death of Abe and 3 of 4 kids

Lincoln becomes more than a Man

When Lincoln is assassinated the Sainthood of Lincoln begins

His best friend and law partner- William Hemdon went around the country trying to tell the truth about Lincoln. However the Myth or sainthood of Lincoln spreads faster than he can travel.

Lincoln is viewed as the perfect human. “Honest Abe” gentle, loving caring, perfect