

# presidents

of the

*United States of America*



**James Buchanan &  
Abraham Lincoln**



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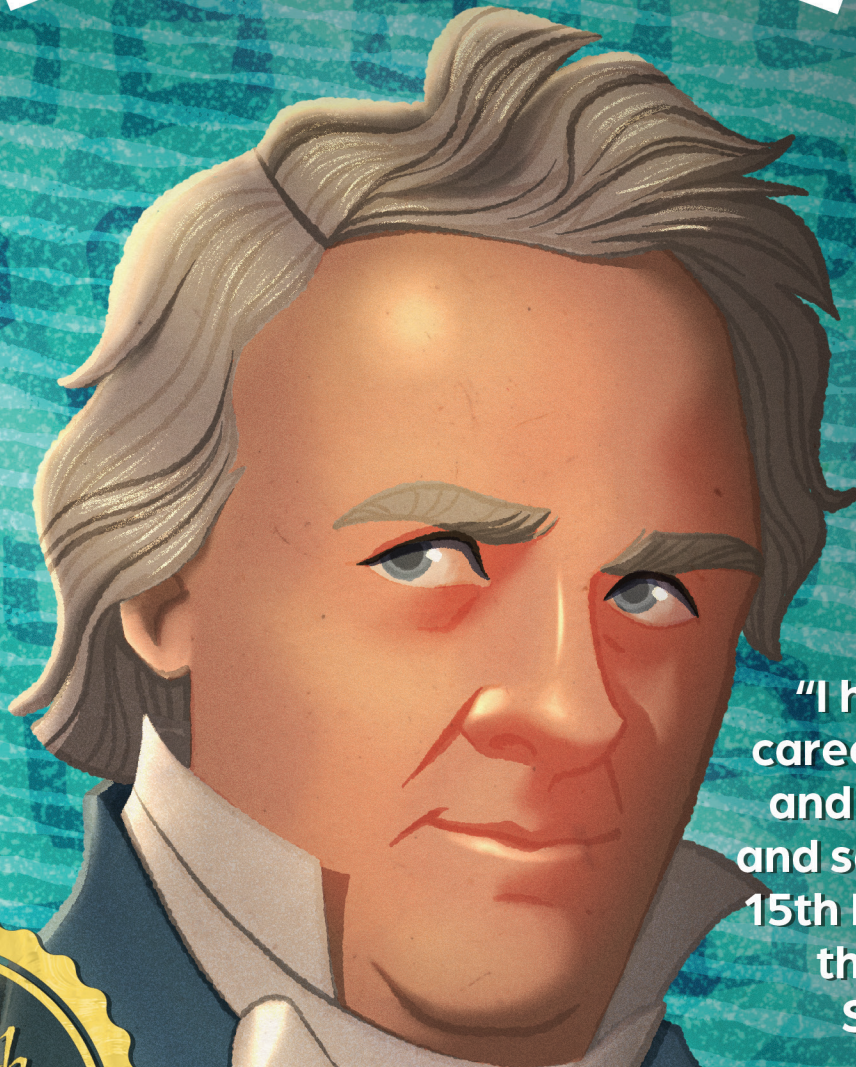


# presidents of the *United States of America*

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# James Buchanan



"I had a long career in politics and diplomacy and served as the 15th President of the United States."



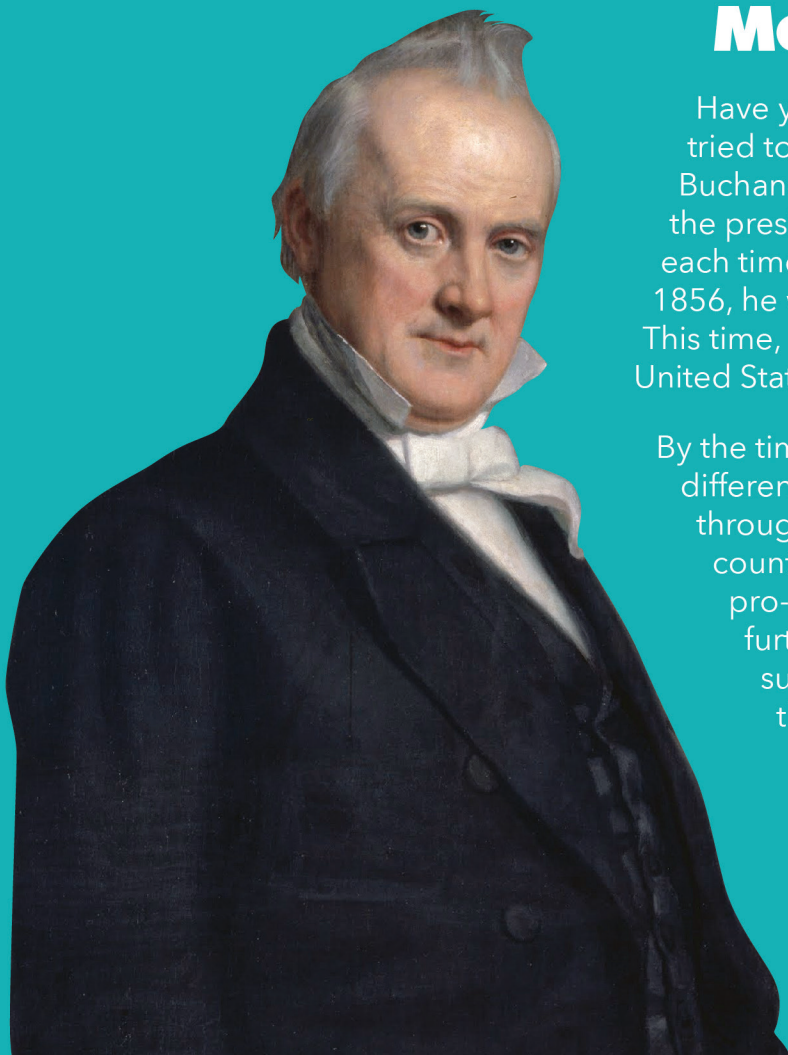


# Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about James Buchanan's life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

He owned a very patriotic pet, but we need your help to find out what kind of animal it was. Your task is to help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

— — — — —  
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!



## Meet James Buchanan

Have you ever wanted something so badly that you tried to get it over and over again? That's how James Buchanan felt about the presidency. He tried to win the presidency in 1844, 1848, and 1852, but he failed each time to get the Democratic Party's nomination. By 1856, he was 65 years old, and he tried one last time. This time, he won and became the 15th President of the United States in 1857.

By the time his term ended in 1861, he felt very differently about the job. He was miserable throughout his presidency. He tried to keep the country united, but his support for Southern pro-slavery policies only helped divide the country further. When he handed the office to his successor, Abraham Lincoln, the nation was on the verge of civil war.

Perhaps no American leader could have prevented that conflict from breaking out, but many historians believe James Buchanan's actions only made things worse. He is considered one of America's least successful presidents.

# Young James

James Buchanan was born on April 23, 1791, in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania. He was the second child and eldest son of James Buchanan, Sr., and Elizabeth Speer. James Sr. was an Irish immigrant who worked hard and became a successful merchant.

Young James studied at a local school, Old Stone Academy. In 1807, when he was 16, he began attending Dickinson College. James was a bit of a troublemaker and almost got expelled for breaking school rules. Despite this, he was also a strong student and ended up graduating with honors.

# Interesting Facts

- He was the last president born in the 18th century.
- He was a member of the Federalist and Democratic parties.
- He was the first president from Pennsylvania.
- He is the only president (as of 2023) to never marry.
- He was the last Secretary of State (as of 2023) to serve as president.

Memorial to James Buchanan at his birthplace in Cove Gap, PA.





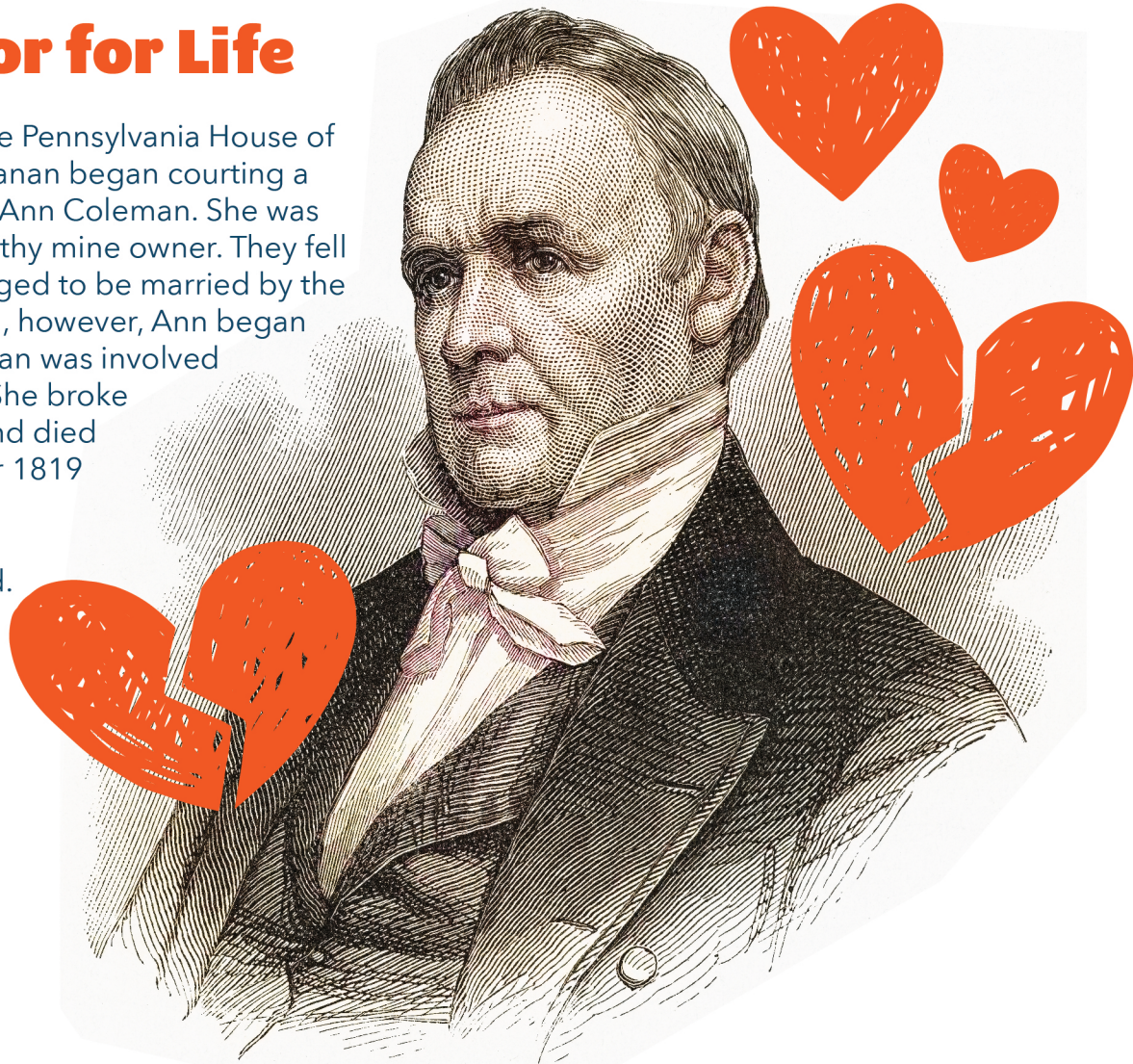
## Early Career

After finishing college, he moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He built a home there named Wheatland and owned it for the rest of his life. Buchanan became a successful lawyer, but he was more excited about getting into politics. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1814 as a member of the **Federalist Party**.

## Bachelor for Life

During his tenure in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Buchanan began courting a young woman named Ann Coleman. She was the daughter of a wealthy mine owner. They fell in love and were engaged to be married by the summer of 1819. Soon, however, Ann began to believe that Buchanan was involved with another woman. She broke off the engagement and died suddenly in December 1819 at the **age** of 23.

Buchanan was crushed. He never courted another woman for the rest of his life. He was the only president in American history to remain a lifelong **bachelor**.



# A Loyal Jacksonian

In 1820, Buchanan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he would serve until 1831. He eventually rose to become the chairman of the powerful **House Judiciary Committee**.

By this time, Buchanan's party, the Federalists, had collapsed. He joined a new party, the Democratic Party, which was led by the popular war hero from the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson. Buchanan strongly supported the Jacksonian principles of limited government and **states' rights**. He also believed in **strict constructionism** when it came to interpreting the Constitution.



Andrew Jackson, leader of the Democratic Party

## Rise to Power

President Jackson rewarded Buchanan for his loyalty by appointing him in 1832 as the U.S. Minister to Russia. Buchanan traveled to the icy country and was an effective diplomat. He even helped negotiate a trade agreement with the Russian government.

In 1834, Buchanan was chosen as a U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, where he served until 1845. Since he had plenty of diplomatic experience, Buchanan became the chairman of the **Senate Foreign Relations Committee**.

During this time, slavery became a major issue that threatened to divide the country. Many Southerners wanted to spread it across the country, while many Northerners wanted to keep it from spreading. Although Buchanan was a Northerner and believed slavery was wrong, he supported the Southerners in their goal to keep

their slaves. Many people called Northerners like Buchanan, who supported Southern policies, **"doughfaces."**

Buchanan hoped to win the 1844 Democratic nomination for president, but the party chose James K. Polk of Tennessee instead. Although this was disappointing, Polk, as president, chose Buchanan as his Secretary of State—the highest ranking officer in the Cabinet. Buchanan supported Polk's policies to expand America, but they had a tense relationship and disagreed on many issues. In 1848 and 1852, Buchanan again sought the Democratic nomination but fell short both times.

In 1853, the new president, Franklin Pierce, appointed Buchanan as Minister to the United Kingdom. During his time in London, again, he was a successful diplomat.

1820

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

1832

Appointed as the U.S. Minister to Russia

1834

Chosen as a U.S. Senator

1844

Sought the Democratic Presidential Nomination

1848

Sought the Democratic Presidential Nomination

1852

Sought the Democratic Presidential Nomination





# 1856 Presidential Election

Pierce's presidency fell apart when he was unable to stop violence between the supporters and opponents of slavery in the Kansas territory. By this time, Buchanan was 65 years old and tried one last time to win the White House. The Democrats abandoned Pierce and chose Buchanan as their nominee. They also chose former Kentucky Congressman John C. Breckinridge as his running mate.

As the nation continued to divide over slavery, many hoped that Buchanan, a Northerner friendly to the South, could keep the country together. He won the election by a comfortable margin that November.

## Quote

*"Let me implore my countrymen, North and South, to cultivate the ancient feelings of mutual forbearance and good will toward each other."  
- December 1859*

## President

As Buchanan entered office, the Supreme Court was about to decide an important case—**Dred Scott v. Sandford**. A slave named Dred Scott had sued for freedom because his owner had taken him to Minnesota and Illinois—both free territories. Just prior to his own inauguration, Buchanan had privately written to members of the Supreme Court, urging them to rule against Dred Scott and in support of slavery. Buchanan believed that this would settle the issue of slavery once and for all, allowing him to unite the country.

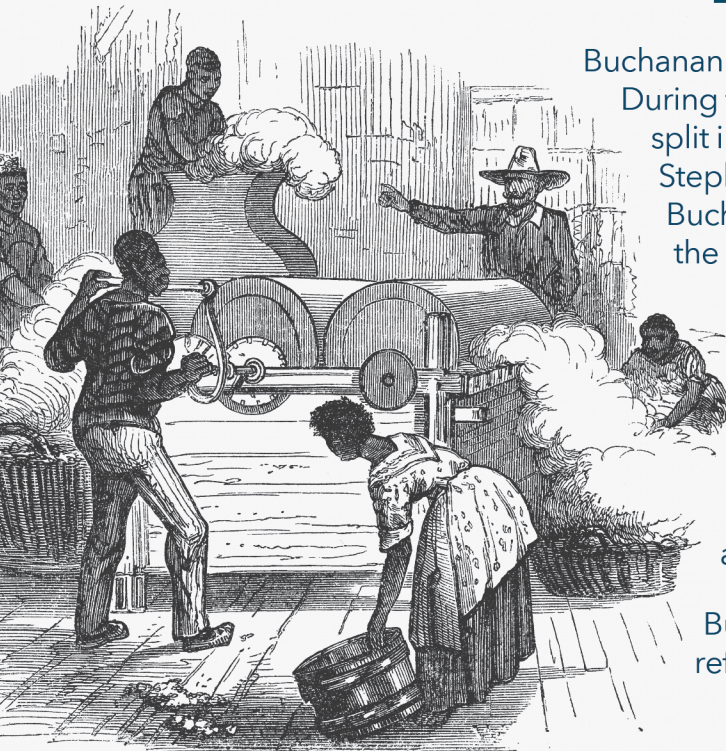
On March 4, 1857, Buchanan was inaugurated president. Two days later, the Court gave him exactly what he wanted: it rejected Scott's claim and declared that black Americans, enslaved or not, did not have the rights of U.S. citizens. Instead of allowing him to unite the country, however, the decision further divided America. Northerners, especially, were outraged.

In October 1859, an extremist **abolitionist** named John Brown seized a federal **armory**, Harpers Ferry. He planned on giving slaves weapons and starting an armed rebellion. Although he was quickly arrested and executed, many Southerners now feared that Northerners were plotting to end slavery through violence and destroy their way of life.



Buchanan (Center) and his Cabinet

# The Nation Splits Apart



Buchanan had originally pledged not to run for a second term. During the 1860 presidential election, the Democratic Party split into a Northern faction, which nominated Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas, and a Southern faction, which nominated Buchanan's vice president, John Breckinridge. The split in the party handed the election to the Republican Party's nominee, Illinois politician Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln opposed the expansion of slavery. This greatly angered the Southerners, and they refused to accept Lincoln's election. In the weeks after the election but before Buchanan left office, seven Southern states **seceded** from the Union. They formed a new nation—the Confederate States of America.

Buchanan believed that secession was illegal, but he refused to take any action to stop it.

## Predicting the Future

Decode the following quote from President Buchanan in December 1860.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
✨	🐻	👤	☕	🦉	👤	🎂	😊	👁️	🌸	🚚	❤️	🎵
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
👉	😊	✍️	100	🍓	👶	🌟	😊	🏠	🕒	💀	🚚	☁️

Answer key on pg 10



## Retirement

Buchanan was miserable as president and couldn't wait to leave office. He supposedly told the incoming president, "If you are as happy in entering the White House as I shall feel on returning to Wheatland, you are a happy man indeed." In April 1861, one month after Lincoln took office, Southern forces fired on Fort Sumter. The Civil War had begun.

Many Americans blamed Buchanan for failing to prevent the war. During his retirement, he was often attacked as a **traitor**. Throughout the war, Buchanan supported the Union cause, but he still blamed Northerners and anti-slavery activists for provoking the conflict. He even wrote a memoir in 1866 defending his decisions as president, but most Americans ignored him.

Two years later, he developed pneumonia and died in his home on June 1, 1868 at the age of 77.

## Quote

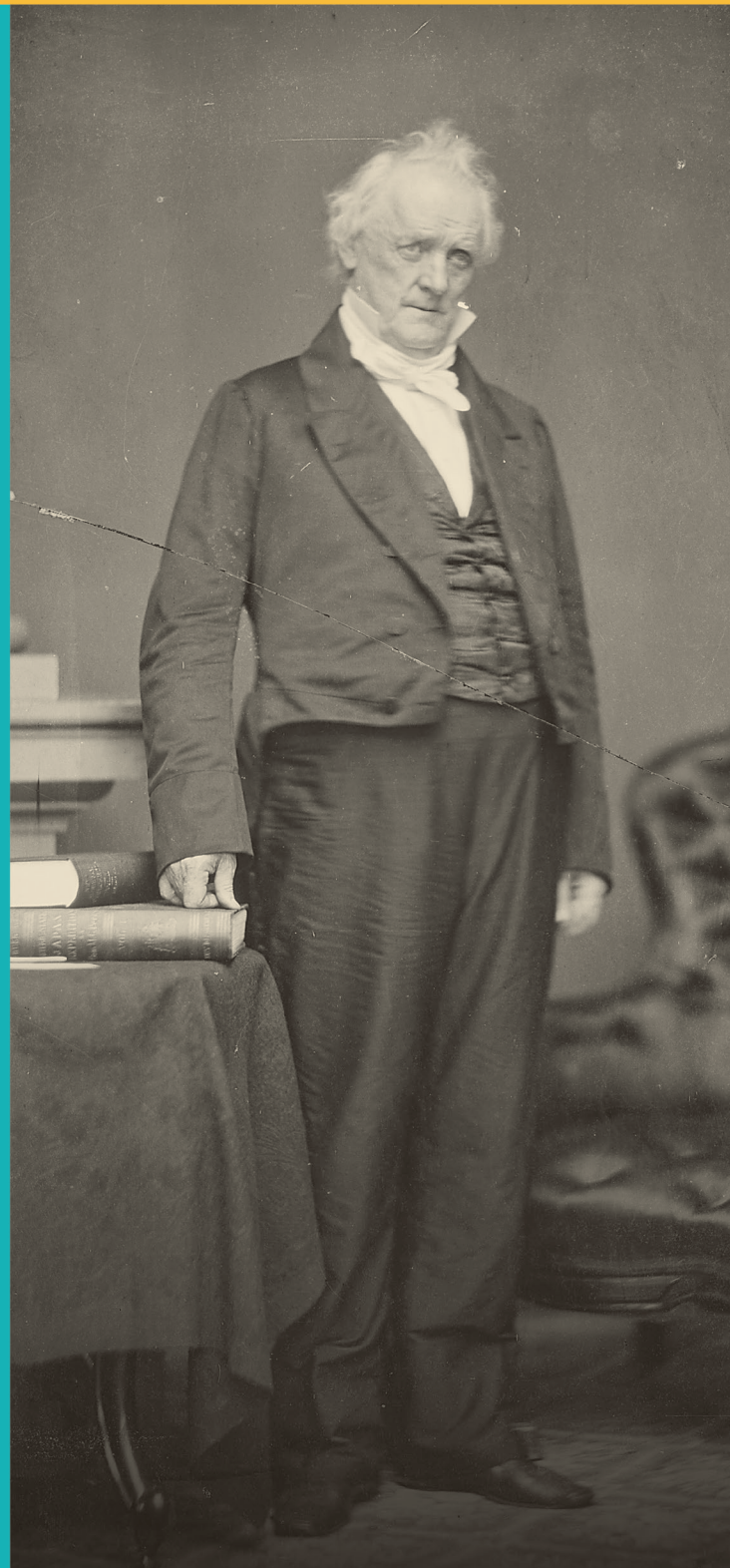
"Next in importance to the maintenance of the Constitution and the Union is the duty of preserving the Government free from the taint or even the suspicion of corruption."

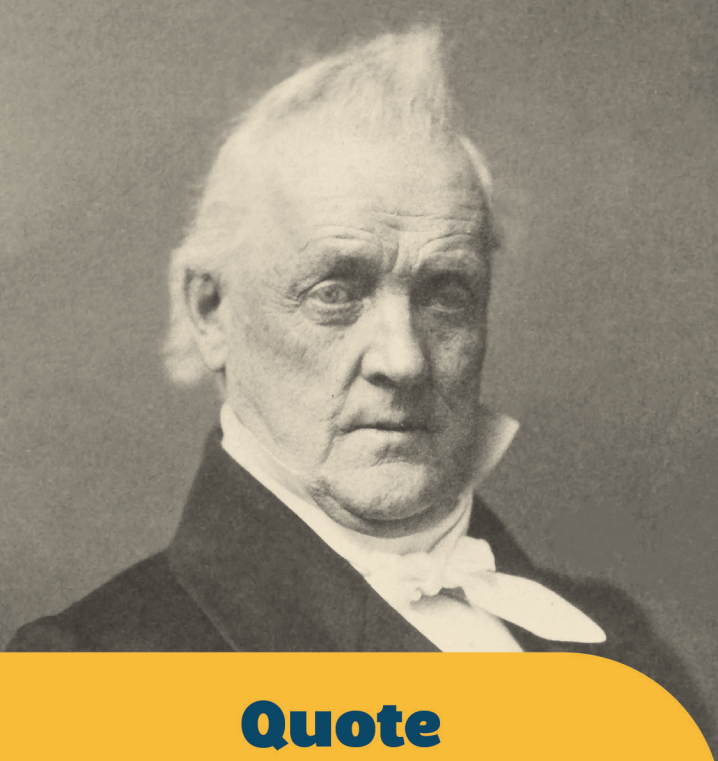
- March 1857



8

Presidents of the United States of America: James Buchanan





## Legacy

Like Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan was considered a doughface who believed that he could keep the nation together by compromise. Although he personally believed slavery was wrong, he worried more about the issue dividing the country. This led him, however, to support policies that favored Southern slaveholders. He supported the *Dred Scott* decision, believing it would settle the issue of slavery once and for all. It was a major miscalculation. The opposite occurred—the nation continued to split apart, resulting in the Civil War.

The years before the Civil War required extraordinary leadership to address the difficult issue of slavery. Although James Buchanan was one of the most experienced men to serve as president, most historians believe he failed to provide the leadership the nation needed.

## Quote

“Public virtue is the vital spirit of republics.”  
- March 1857

## Write About It

Buchanan was president during a difficult time in history. His decisions further divided Americans over the issue of slavery. What do you think he could have done differently? When you disagree with others, how can you work toward a peaceful solution?

# Glossary

**Federalist Party:** The party that formed in the 1790s in the United States that believed the federal government needed to be strengthened at the time for the country to prosper. It was led by George Washington, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton.

**Bachelor:** A man who is not, and has never been, married.

**House Judiciary Committee:** The committee in the U.S. House of Representatives that deals with impeachment, the courts, and various other laws.

**States' Rights:** The political powers of the states within the United States.

**Strict Constructionism:** The idea that laws or a constitution should be interpreted literally or narrowly.

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee:** The committee in the Senate that deals with foreign policy legislation.

**Doughface:** A term used in the 19th century in America to describe a Northern politician who supported positions popular in the South, especially the expansion of slavery throughout the country. This was because Southerners saw those politicians as moldable, or able to be manipulated and controlled like dough.

**Dred Scott v. Sandford:** A landmark case in which the Supreme Court decided (in 1857) that black Americans, enslaved or not, were not entitled to the rights of U.S. citizens. The case originated when a slave, Dred Scott, sued for his freedom after his owner took him to free territory. The case angered Americans who opposed slavery and contributed to the start of the Civil War.

**Abolitionist:** A person who wants to stop or abolish slavery.

**Armory:** A special military building where weapons and ammunition are kept.

**Secede:** To leave an organization or government.

**Traitor:** A person who betrays their country, friends, or a group by helping its enemies, especially during a time of war.

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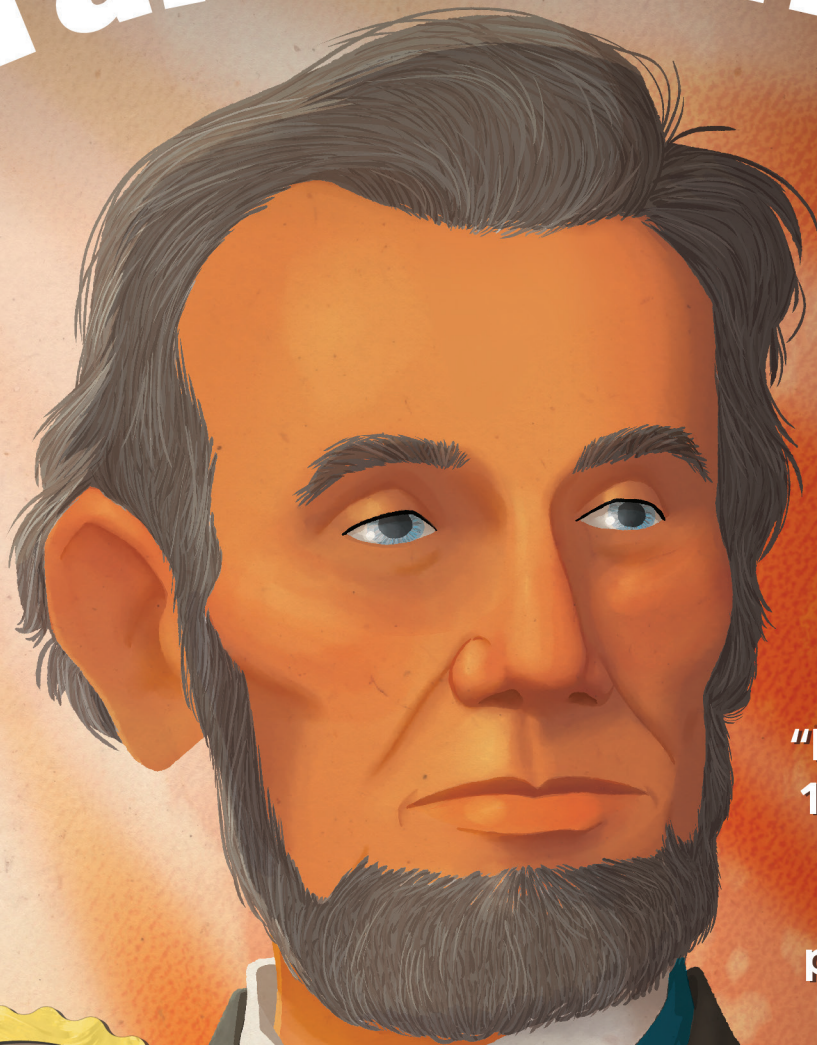
## Answers:

BUCHANAN'S PET:  
EAGLE

PREDICTING THE FUTURE:

I have long foreseen and  
often forewarned my  
countrymen of the now  
impending danger

# Abraham Lincoln



"I served as the 16th President of the United States and preserved the Union during the Civil War."





# Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Abraham Lincoln's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

He and his family owned a dog while they lived in the White House, and we need your help to find out what his name was. Your task is to help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.



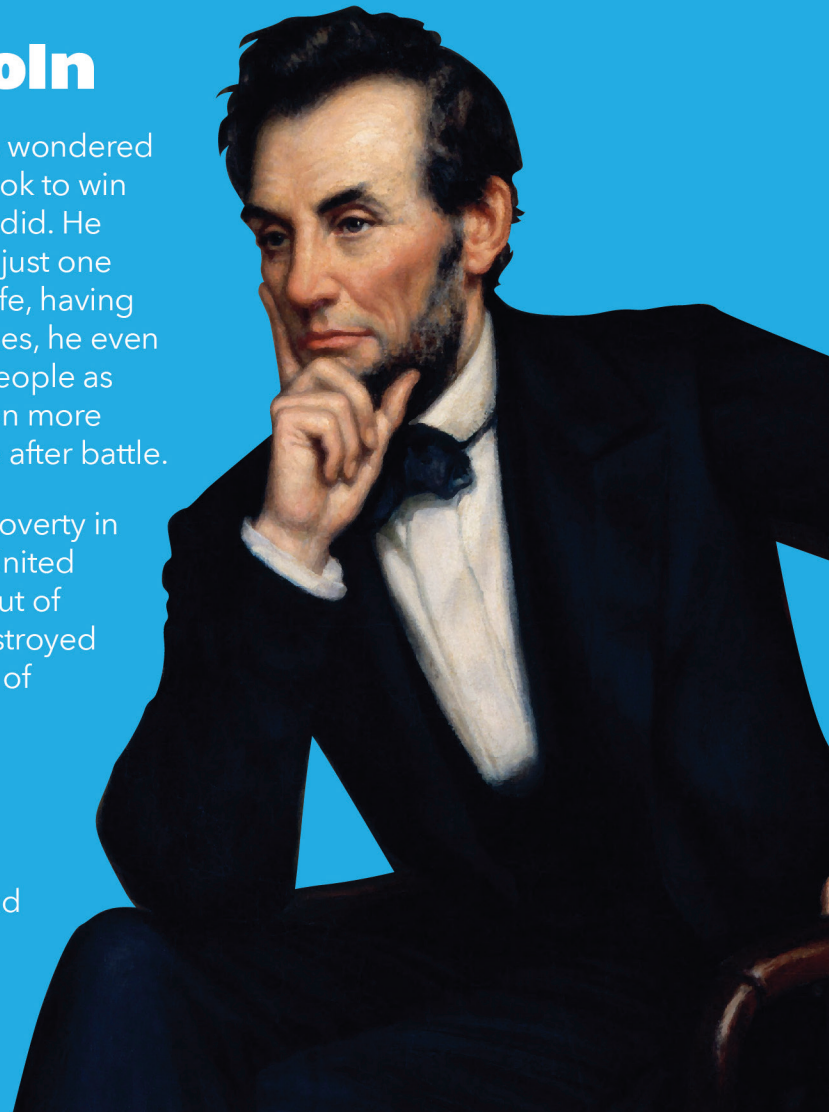
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

## Meet Abraham Lincoln

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Americans wondered if their president, Abraham Lincoln, had what it took to win the war. They had many reasons to doubt that he did. He had very little political experience, having served just one term in Congress. He had his share of failures in life, having lost a major Senate race a few years earlier. At times, he even struggled with depression, and he struck many people as gangly and awkward-looking. Americans had even more reason to doubt him when his generals lost battle after battle.

Lincoln, however, was tough. He had risen from poverty in the western frontier to become President of the United States. With the same tenacity that brought him out of hardship, he steered the **Union** to victory and destroyed the institution of slavery. Along the way, his sense of humor and eloquent speeches endeared him to millions. His words have inspired generations of Americans.

By the time the war had ended in the spring of 1865, this inexperienced politician from Illinois had secured his place as one of America's greatest presidents. His assassination in April of that year was a profound tragedy that ended one of the most important lives in history.



# Young Abraham

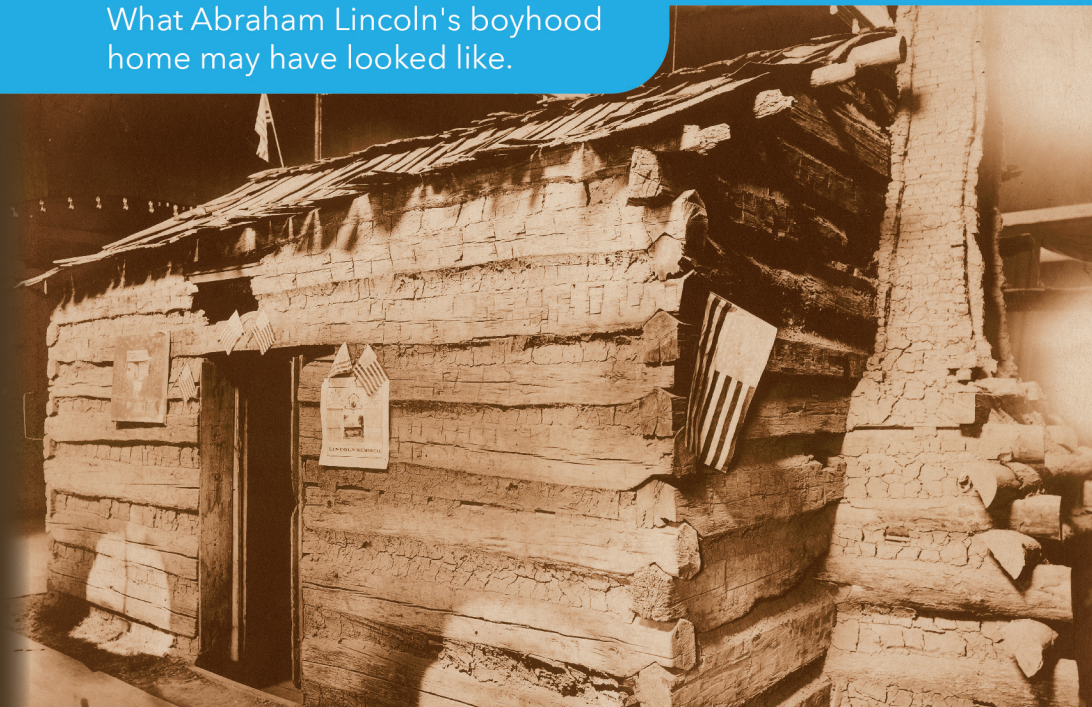
Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in a log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. He later described his childhood as “the short and simple **annals** of the poor.” His parents were Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, and he had an older sister named Sarah. His father, Thomas, was a carpenter and backwoods frontier farmer. When young Abraham, or “Abe,” was seven years old, he and his family moved to the Indiana wilderness.

Tragedy struck the Lincoln family two years later when Abe’s mother, Nancy, died of a stomach ailment called “milk sickness.” Young Abe was heartbroken and later wrote, “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.”

Soon, however, his father remarried a woman named Sarah Bush Johnston. Abe and his new stepmother became very close, and she encouraged him to study hard and get a good education.

Abe spent much of his youth working hard on his farm chores. He attended schools here and there, but his family’s poverty prevented him from going to college. Instead, Abe learned as much as he could, reading by the light of his family’s fireplace. He also got an exciting job taking goods up and down the Mississippi River on a **flatboat**. He loved being able to travel and see more of the country. On a stop at New Orleans, however, Lincoln saw black Americans being sold as slaves, which instilled in him a hatred of **slavery**.

What Abraham Lincoln’s boyhood home may have looked like.



## Interesting Facts

- He is often referred to as the “Great Emancipator” and the “Savior of the Union.” He was also known as “Honest Abe.”
- He was a member of the Whig and Republican parties.
- He was the first president born in Kentucky.
- He was the first president born outside of the original 13 colonies.
- He was known to be a good wrestler and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1992.
- He was the first president from the Republican Party.
- At six-foot-four, he was the tallest president (as of 2023).
- He is the only president (as of 2023) with a patent to his name for a device he designed to lift boats over shoals.
- He was the first president to be assassinated.





## Early Career

In 1830, when Lincoln was 21, his family moved to Illinois near the banks of the Sangamon River. He eventually settled into a growing village named New Salem. He got a job working as a clerk at a general store. He made an impression on his new neighbors, especially since he was six-feet-four-inches tall, very intelligent, and had a great sense of humor. He was also strong—he was a good wrestler and could easily split **rails** and fell trees.

Lincoln wanted to do more than just work at a store—he was very ambitious. He studied to become a lawyer. His real passion, however, was politics. He loved debating about the great issues of the day and wanted to play an important role in the world.

In 1834, he ran for the Illinois House of Representatives and won, serving until 1842. Around this time, Lincoln became a strong supporter of the Whig Party and its leader Henry Clay. He also married a feisty young woman named Mary Todd. They would have four children, but only one would live to old age.

In 1846, Lincoln was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. During this time, he strongly criticized President James K. Polk for leading the country into the Mexican-American War. After one term in Congress, he lived in Springfield, Illinois and practiced law.

## Quote

*“What is conservatism? Is it not adherence to the old and tried, against the new and untried?”*

*- February 1860*

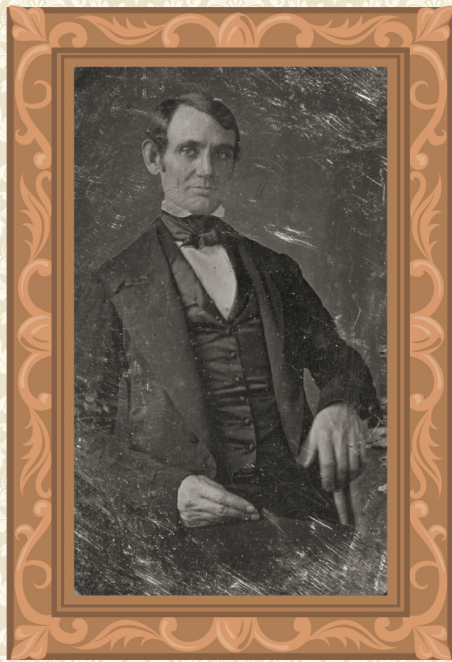


## Return to Politics

Lincoln was outraged when, in 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. The law, proposed by his Illinois rival, Democrat Senator Stephen A. Douglas, allowed people in America's Western territories to decide whether to have slavery. Lincoln believed that slavery should be restricted only to the states where it already existed.

The country became more divided on the issue, with Northerners hoping to prevent slavery from spreading and Southerners hoping for the opposite. Lincoln joined a new party, the Republican Party, which opposed the expansion of slavery. He and his fellow Republicans were even more upset in 1857 when the Supreme Court ruled in the case *Dred Scott v. Sandford* that black Americans, enslaved or not, did not have the rights of U.S. citizens.

Lincoln hoped to get back into politics to do something about it. In 1858, he challenged Douglas for his Senate seat.



Top Left: Earliest Photo of Abraham Lincoln

Top Right: Mary Todd Lincoln

Middle: Lincoln Family

Bottom: The Lincoln Residence 1844-1861



## Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Lincoln and Douglas faced off in seven **debates** across Illinois in the Senate race. They made for quite a contrast: Lincoln, at six-foot-four, was a whole foot taller than Douglas. Both men, however, were excellent debaters, and the whole nation followed the race in the newspapers. During the election, Lincoln argued passionately that the nation could not be “permanently slave and half free” but had to choose between the two. Douglas believed that people in their states should be able to decide whether to have slavery—an idea he called **popular sovereignty**.

Douglas ended up winning the election. Although Lincoln was sad about the outcome, he became famous throughout the country.

## Tips for Winning Debates

1. **Do your research.** Learn about both sides of the argument. That way, you are more prepared to reply to what people on the other side say.
2. **Be clear.** Writing your arguments and then reading what you wrote can help you communicate your ideas clearly.
3. **Stay calm.** Don't let your emotions get the best of you. Breathe deeply and focus on the rational argument you are making.
4. **Listen carefully.** As you listen, focus on what the other person is saying instead of on what you are going to say in response.



# Antislavery, but Not an Abolitionist

Many Americans opposed slavery in the 19th century, but not everyone agreed on how to get rid of it. Some, like William Lloyd Garrison, believed that the United States was an evil country for having slavery in the first place and that the Founding Fathers were to blame. Garrison even burned a copy of the Constitution in public to express his views. His followers were often called **abolitionists** and wanted slavery to end immediately.

Lincoln and other antislavery activists, such as former slave and black American Frederick Douglass, agreed that slavery was wrong but disagreed with abolitionists on how to get rid of it. They also believed that the Founding Fathers, even

those who had slaves, opposed slavery but didn't have the opportunity to end it because the country was still too dependent on it. Had the Founders tried to eliminate it too quickly, the country would have been destroyed right from the start, and no one—black or white—would have freedom.

In a speech in New York City in February 1860, Lincoln argued passionately that the Founders hoped slavery would **die** eventually and worked hard to restrict its growth. He believed that the best way to eliminate slavery without destroying the whole country was to confine it to the states where it existed so it could disappear over time.

## Quote

*"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong."  
- April 1864*

## 1860 Presidential Election

Despite losing the 1858 Senate race, he set his sights on an even greater prize: the presidency. He did, however, have several formidable opponents, such as New York Senator William H. Seward. At the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, however, Lincoln outsmarted his rivals and won the nomination. Maine Senator Hannibal Hamlin was chosen as his vice presidential running mate.

The Democrats were divided over the issue of slavery and split into two groups. The Northern Democrats chose Stephen Douglas as their nominee, while the Southern Democrats chose Vice President John C. Breckinridge.

Although the Democrats had won the previous two presidential elections, their split handed the election to Lincoln, who won in a landslide.



# President

The South refused to accept Lincoln's election. In the weeks after the election, seven Southern states **seceded** from the Union and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The Confederates then selected Mississippi Senator Jefferson Davis as its president.

Lincoln was inaugurated president on March 4, 1861. Five weeks later, on April 12, the South attacked Fort Sumter, a federal port, in South Carolina. The Civil War had begun.

Four more states joined the Confederacy, giving it 11 states. Lincoln believed that the South had no right to leave the Union and were, therefore, illegally rebelling. He fought the war to keep the Union together. Things didn't go well initially for the Union, and Lincoln's generals lost many battles, such as the Battle of Bull Run, but he found two men who he could trust: Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman. They waged war effectively against Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Lincoln took extraordinary measures to win the war. He suspended **habeas corpus** and even shut down newspapers that supported the

Confederacy. These decisions were controversial then and now.

Early in the conflict, Lincoln was more focused on defeating the South rather than ending slavery. In January of 1863, however, he issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which declared all slaves in the rebelling states free. After the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg that July, Lincoln gave his famous **Gettysburg Address** on November 19, in which he eloquently declared that America had "a new birth of freedom"—which he hoped meant the end of slavery. By 1864, he strongly supported what would become the 13th Amendment, banning slavery forever.

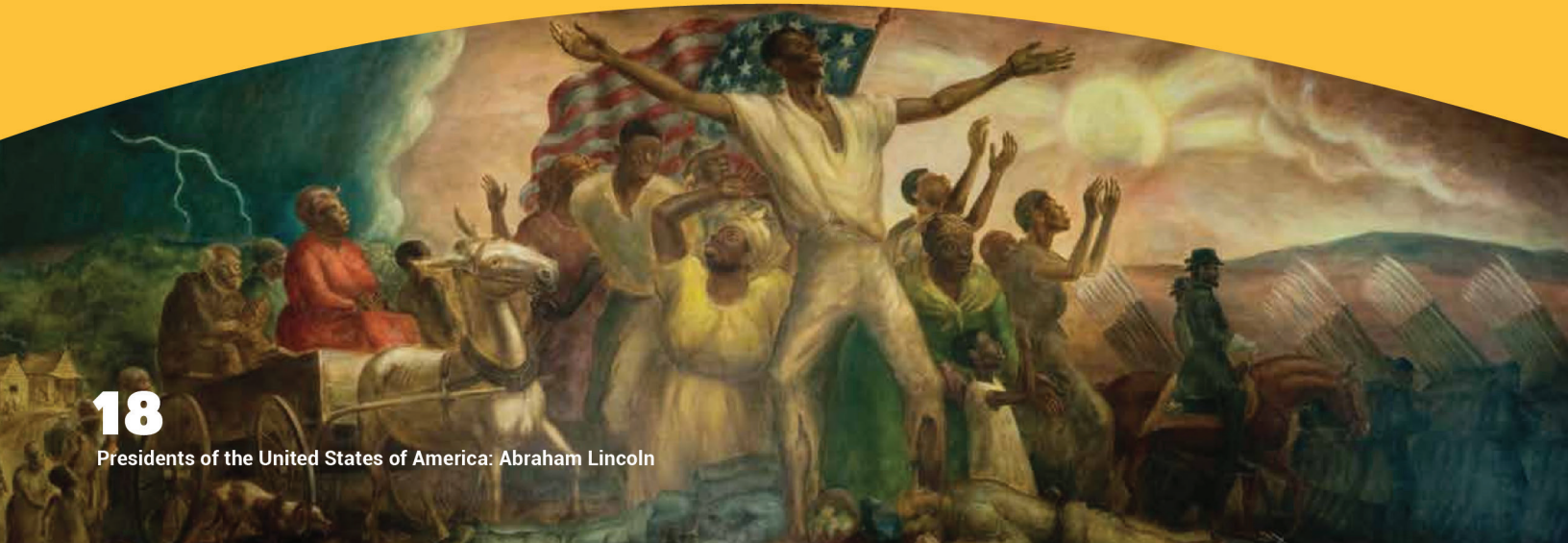
That same year, Lincoln won re-election, this time with a new running mate, Tennessee Military Governor Andrew Johnson.

More Americans—620,000—died in the Civil War than any other war. It left Lincoln exhausted and depressed, but his hard work paid off when General Lee surrendered to General Grant on April 9, 1865. The South had lost, and Lincoln had preserved the Union.

## Quote

*"I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence."*

*- February 1861*



# Gettysburg Address

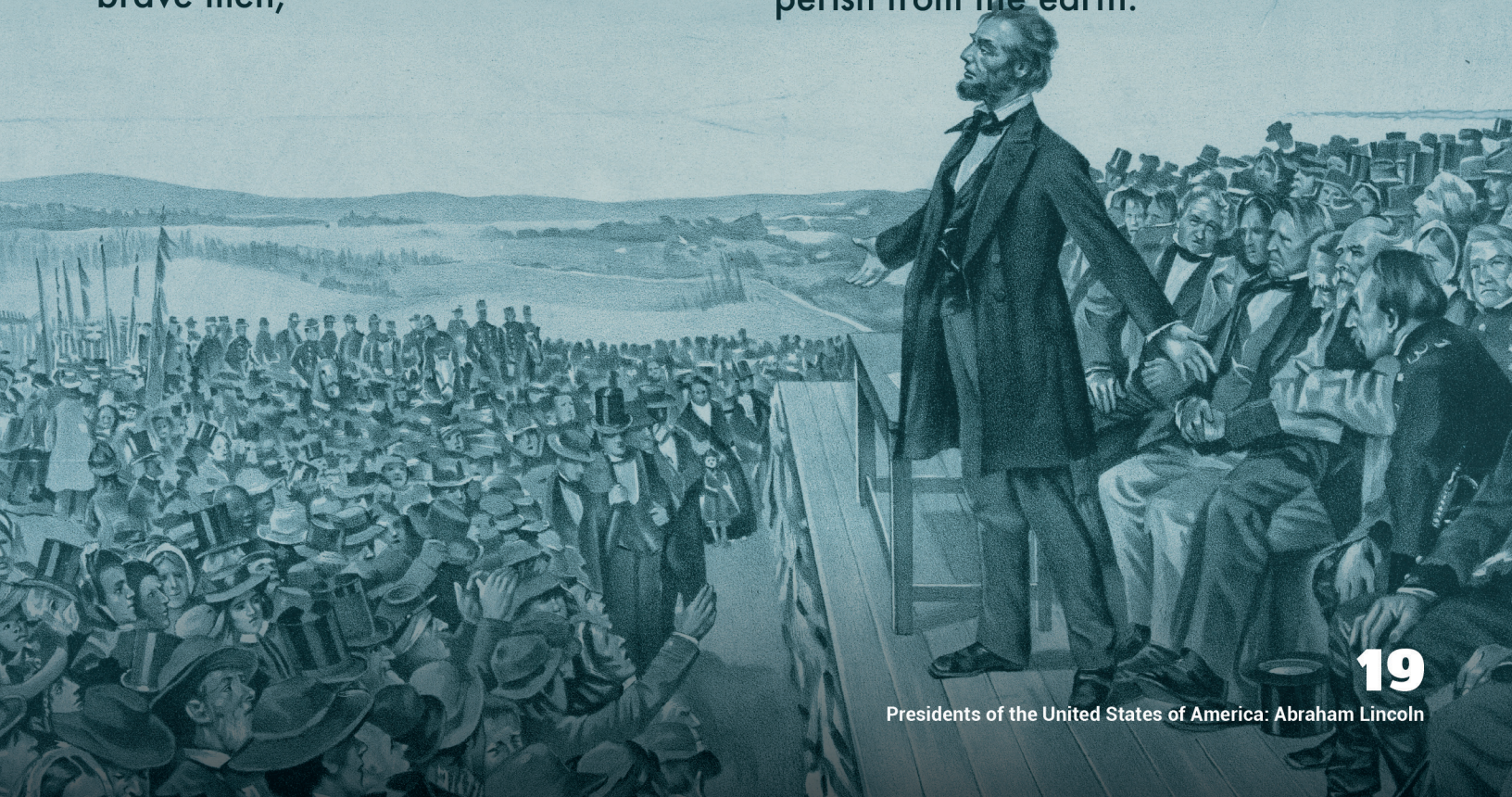


*Four score and seven years ago* our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow, this ground—The brave men,

living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



# Assassination

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln and his wife Mary attended a play titled *Our American Cousin* in Ford's Theater, a few blocks from the White House. During the play, a famous actor named John Wilkes Booth entered the private box where Lincoln and his wife were sitting. Booth and several of his friends were upset that the Union had won the Civil War and plotted to kill Lincoln, Vice President Johnson, and other government leaders. Booth aimed a small gun at Lincoln's head and fired.

Lincoln fell over, unconscious, while Booth jumped out of the box and fled the theater. Mary screamed in horror, and chaos ensued. Lincoln was taken to a house across the street, and doctors attended to him, but there was nothing they could do.

The next morning, Abraham Lincoln died at the age of 56. Although Booth and his friends weren't able to kill Johnson or anyone else, they had successfully carried out the first presidential assassination in American history.

Upon Lincoln's death, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton declared, "Now he belongs to the ages."

## Quote

"We here highly resolve... that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

- November 1863

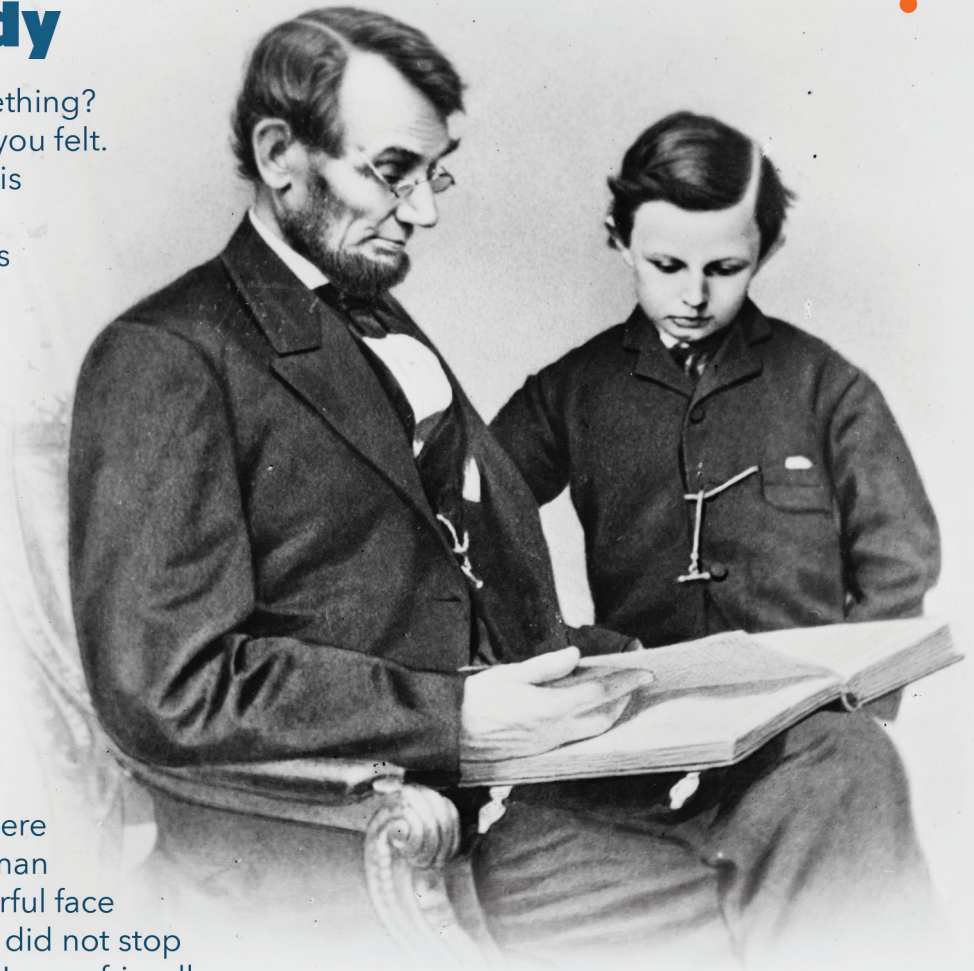




# A Life of Tragedy

Have you ever been sad about something? Abraham Lincoln knew exactly how you felt. He experienced many tragedies in his life, losing his mother and sister at a young age, and his father. He and his wife Mary also lost their son Edward at the age of four in 1850. In 1862, during Lincoln's presidency, their son William, or "Willie," died in the White House at the age of 11. The Lincolns mourned their son's death, as well as the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans during the Civil War.

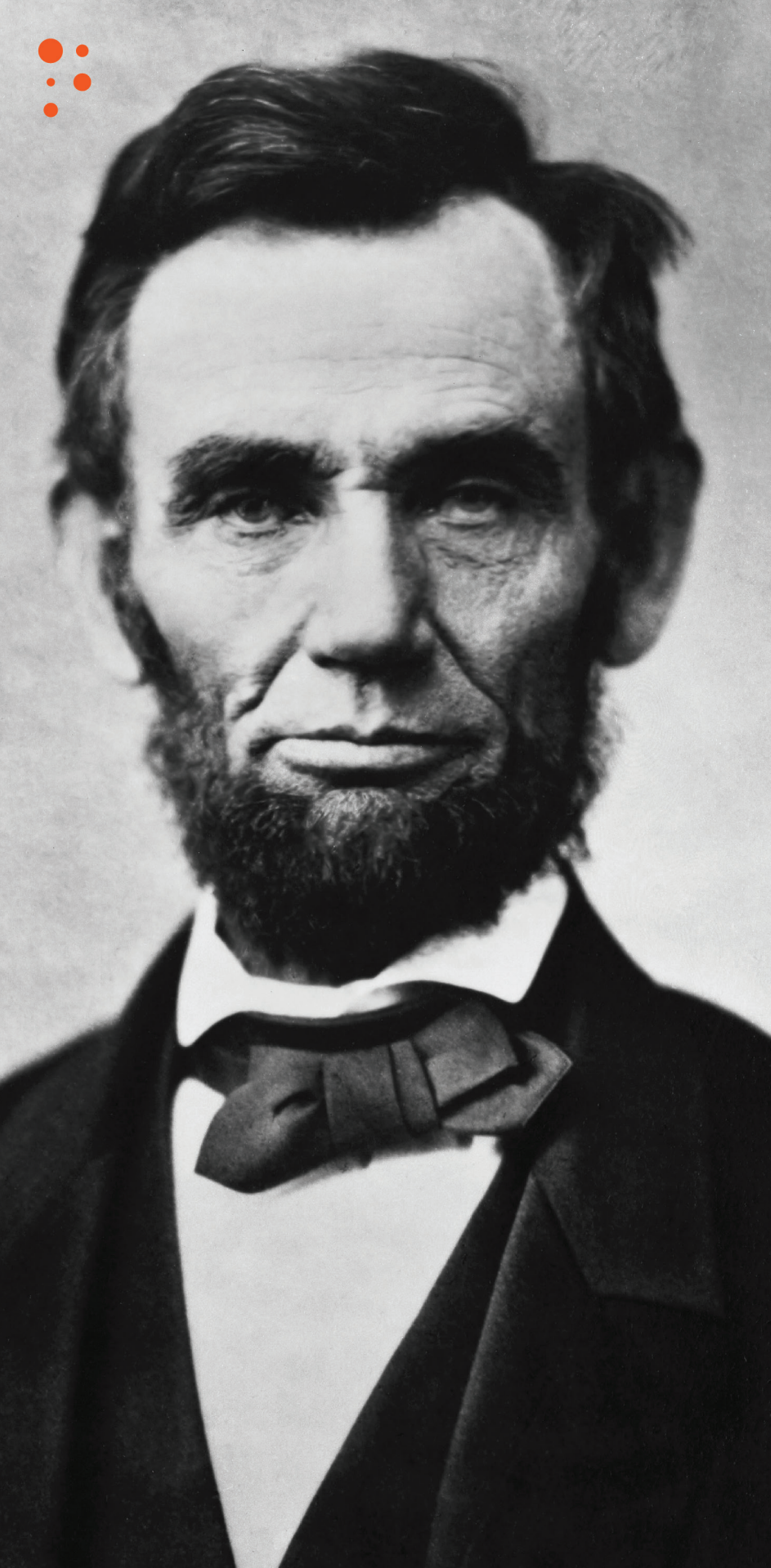
Lincoln himself suffered from depression throughout his life. In 1841, he wrote, "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth." His sadness, however, did not stop him from having a sense of humor. He was friendly, folksy, and full of jokes and stories from the frontier. Some historians believe that his depression helped him empathize with other people and made him a better leader and president.



## Write About It

What have you learned about Lincoln's life that could help you be a better person? You might write about his leadership or how he taught himself through hard work and study.



## Legacy

When the Founding Fathers created the United States, they hoped that the evil institution of slavery would one day disappear from the country. By the 1850s, Southern slaveholders had rejected that vision and hoped to expand slavery into new territories. America divided into two sides, unable to come to an agreement. Several presidents during that time tried to find compromises to satisfy both sides, but nothing resolved the issue. Meanwhile, millions of black Americans continued to suffer in their oppression.

It would take extraordinary leadership to unite the country and destroy the institution of slavery once and for all. Abraham Lincoln provided that leadership. He strongly believed that slavery was evil and knew that the country couldn't remain half slave and half free. He never wavered in his belief that the Union should be preserved, and he had excellent political skills, allowing him to build support for ending slavery. Lincoln had many critics in his lifetime, but Americans, by and large, remember him as one of their greatest leaders.

## Quote

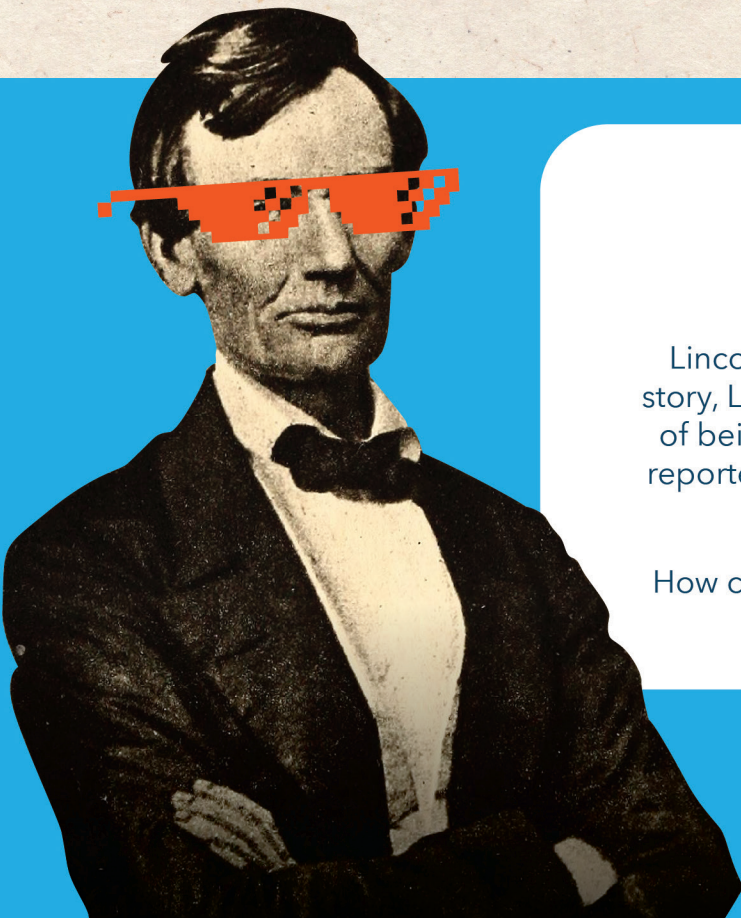
*"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in..."*  
- March 1865

# Emancipation Proclamation

Fill in the missing words from the first paragraph of the Emancipation Proclamation with the given words below.

"That \_\_\_\_\_ the first day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our \_\_\_\_\_ one thousand \_\_\_\_\_ hundred and sixty-\_\_\_\_\_, all persons held as \_\_\_\_\_ within any \_\_\_\_\_ or designated part of a State, the \_\_\_\_\_ whereof shall then be in \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ States, shall be then, thenceforward, and \_\_\_\_\_; and the Executive \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, including the \_\_\_\_\_ and naval authority thereof, will \_\_\_\_\_ and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no \_\_\_\_\_ or acts to \_\_\_\_\_ such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual \_\_\_\_\_.

free      United      Lord      repress      three      rebellion  
Government      act      recognize      State      January      forever  
people      military      freedom      on      eight      slaves



## Turn That Frown Upside Down

Lincoln had a great sense of humor. In one famous story, Lincoln was accused of being two-faced. Instead of being offended or angry, he made a joke. Lincoln reportedly said, "If I had another face, do you think I'd wear this one?"

How could you turn a bad situation into a funny one?

# Glossary

**Union:** The United States government during the Civil War that fought to prevent the Confederate states from seceding.

**Annals:** A record of events.

**Flatboat:** A cargo boat with a flat bottom used to transport freight and passengers in shallow water.

**Slavery:** A system in which people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.

**Rail:** A steel bar laid on the ground to form a railroad track.

**Kansas-Nebraska Act:** A law in 1854 that allowed people living in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to decide whether to have slavery there. It was based on the idea of popular sovereignty. The law angered people who were against slavery and contributed to the start of the Civil War.

**Debate:** A discussion of the issues in public between candidates for political office.

**Popular Sovereignty:** The idea from the 1850s in the United States that people should have the choice to allow slavery in the territory in which they live.

**Abolitionist:** A person who wants to stop or abolish slavery.

**Secede:** To leave an organization or government.

**Habeas Corpus:** Latin for “that you have the body.” It forces the government to give a good reason for imprisoning someone. Without it, the government can hold a prisoner indefinitely. During the Civil War, Lincoln suspended this right, which meant prisoners could be held as long as he believed was necessary.

**Emancipation Proclamation:** A document President Lincoln issued on January 1, 1863 declaring that all slaves living in the rebelling states were free. It is considered one of the most important documents in American history and a major milestone in expanding freedom in the United States.

**Gettysburg Address:** A short speech President Lincoln delivered on November 19, 1863, to dedicate a cemetery near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—the site of a recent battle. The speech is one of the most famous in American history. In it, Lincoln declared that the Civil War had led to a “new birth of freedom” in the United States and resolved “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

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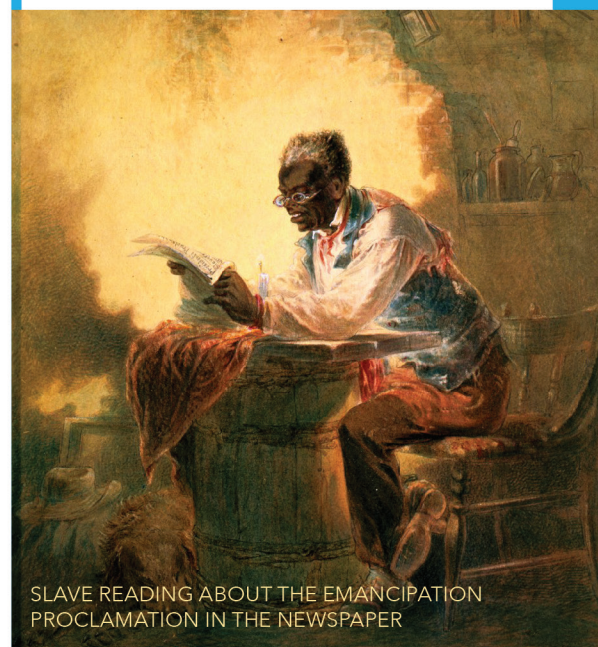
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## Answers:

**NAME OF LINCOLN'S DOG:** FIDO

**EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION:**  
ON, JANUARY, LORD, EIGHT, THREE, SLAVES,  
STATE, PEOPLE, REBELLION, UNITED,  
FOREVER, FREE, GOVERNMENT, MILITARY,  
RECOGNIZE, ACT, REPRESS, FREEDOM.



SLAVE READING ABOUT THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION IN THE NEWSPAPER

# NOTES



A series of 22 horizontal lines for writing notes.

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