

Program Name: The Living Abe Lincoln

Artist: Larry Greer

Special Requirements:

Open floor space.

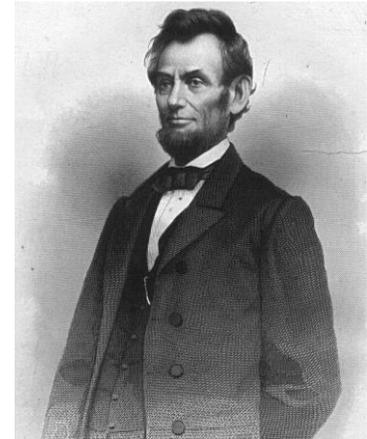
Special Points of Interest:

President Lincoln was the tallest president, standing 6' 4". The sixteenth president was the first to have a beard while in office. He is also the first president to be photographed at his inauguration. President Lincoln had a cat named "Bob," a turkey named "Jack," and a dog named "Jib."

Performance Description

Few Americans have had a more profound impact on our society than Abraham Lincoln. Professional actor Larry Greer brings Abe to life, giving students a first-hand account of the events and influences that shaped this great man. Fully clad in costume, Larry takes on the persona of our 16th president to tell the story of his life, times, and death. The students' knowledge will be put to the test as a discussion of their previous knowledge of Abe Lincoln will initiate the performance. Not only will students learn details of Lincoln's life, they'll be able to connect them to the history and politics of 19th-century America. In particular, the issue of slavery will be addressed with the students.

A portion of this performance is devoted to a spontaneous question and answer session for the students. This presentation is a great opportunity for students to really understand the influence Abraham Lincoln had on our country.



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Relate the impact of Lincoln's presidency to American history.
- Investigate Lincoln's feelings about slavery.
- Identify major events in Lincoln's life.

History:

- Understands the technological, social, and strategic aspects of the Civil War

Theater:

- Knows character traits that help individuals to succeed

Artist Bio: Larry Greer



Larry Greer is a theatre artist who has worked as an actor, director, and instructor in the Kansas City area since 1987.

Larry has performed on every professional stage in Kansas City, including *The Missouri Rep*, *The Unicorn*, *Heart of America Shakespeare Festival*, and *The New Theatre*. As a director, Larry's work has been seen on educational, community, and

professional stages. His early fascination with both Lincoln and the Civil War led to this program.

Larry's presentation of *The Living Abe Lincoln* has been performed for tens of thousands of students at hundreds of schools throughout the Kansas City area, St. Louis, and New England. He thanks you for the opportunity to bring this compelling figure from our history to life.

Vocabulary

List of Resources:

Books:

[The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia](#)

by Mark E. Neely
McGraw-Hill (October 1, 1981)

ISBN: 0070461457

[Lincoln : A](#)

[Photobiography](#)

[\(Houghton Mifflin social studies\)](#)

by Russell Freedman

Clarion Books

(September 25, 1989)

ISBN: 0395518482

[The real Abraham](#)

[Lincoln:: A complete one volume history of his life and times](#)

by Reinhard H Luthin

Prentice-Hall (1960)

ASIN: B0006AWMAU

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Abolitionist: a person, usually from the Northern States, who wanted to abolish slavery.

Civil War: war fought between the Union and Confederacy from April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865. The term "civil" refers to a war within a country, rather than one between different countries.

Confederate States of America (CSA:) name taken by the Southern states that fought in the Civil War.

Emancipation Proclamation: document written and signed by Lincoln during the Civil War freeing the slaves.

Flatboat: boat used by Lincoln to take corn and other goods down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. It was built by stacking rows of logs on top of each other, then tying them together with rope or vines.

Free state: any state that did not allow slavery.

Slavery: the state of one bound in servitude as the property of a slaveholder or household.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Lincoln's conviction that slavery was wrong went against the popular opinions of many. Ask students if they have a strong feeling about something they see as wrong which others may not see as wrong? What is it? Have them write an essay page defending their conviction.
2. Read about Lincoln and identify important geographical locations in his life on your class map. In what area of the country did he spend his life before becoming president? In what states did he live and work? (Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington D.C.)
3. Show the route used by flatboats to deliver their goods during this period. (Mississippi River down to New Orleans)
4. These nicknames were given to Lincoln: *Honest Abe*, *The Flat Boatman*, *The Great Emancipator*, *The Jester*, *The Long 'Un*, *The Rail Splitter*, *The Martyr President*. Find out why they were applied to him.
- 5) Lincoln is famous for his quotations, such as "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Have students find their favorite Lincoln quotation and share it with the class. Vote on all quotations to select a favorite.