

Presidential

Potpourri

2nd
GRADE

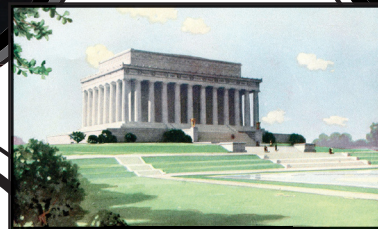
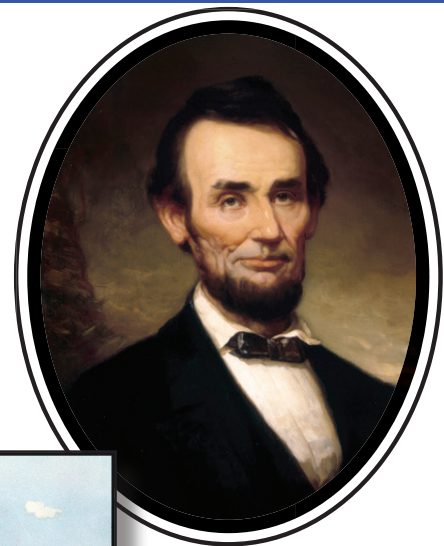
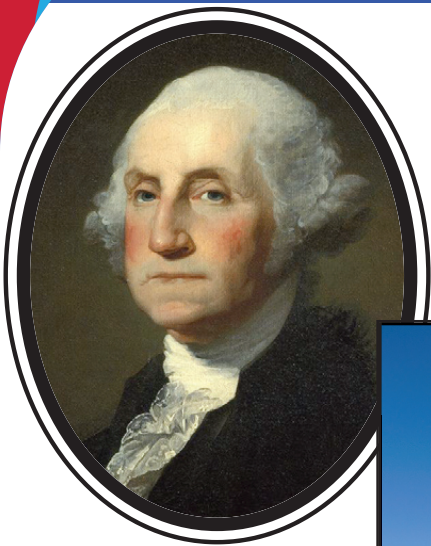


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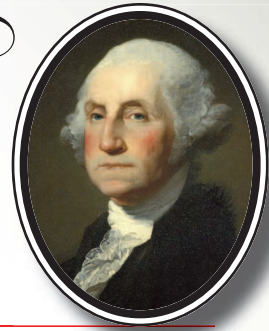
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George Washington



Finding the Facts

George Washington is known as the “Father of Our Country.” Read about George Washington to see why he was given this nickname. After you read, complete the sentences.

George Washington was born in Virginia on February 22, 1732. At this time, America was ruled by **England**. When he was a young boy, George had to travel a very long distance to get to school. To get to his first school, George had to walk seven miles each way. George studied hard and became a surveyor. A **surveyor** is someone who measures land and makes maps. George Washington's home was a farm called **Mount Vernon**. As an adult, he married a woman named **Martha Custis**. Martha had two children, and George helped raise them. At this time, there were a lot of people living in America who did not want America to be part of England anymore. George Washington was chosen to be the **Commander in Chief of the American army**. He fought in the Revolutionary War so that America could be a separate country. After a long and difficult fight, America won the war and gained its independence from England. It became the United States of America, and George Washington was elected as the first president in 1789. At that time, the capital of the United States was New York. The capital later became Washington, D.C., named for George Washington.



- 1) When George Washington was born, America was ruled by _____.
- 2) George Washington's first job was as a surveyor. A surveyor is someone who _____.
- 3) George Washington's home was called _____.
- 4) Martha Custis was the _____ of George Washington.
- 5) George Washington was the Commander in Chief of the _____ army.

A Timeline for George Washington

George Washington's Life

Match the correct year and event with the space on the timeline. Cut and paste the events, and place them in the correct order on the timeline.

1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800



1732-
George
Washington
is born.

1776-America
declares
independence
from England.

1799-
George
Washington
dies.

1759-
George
marries Martha
Custis.

1789-George
Washington is
elected the first
president of the U.S.



George Washington



Design a Monument

A monument is a sculpture or a building that helps people remember an important person or event. George Washington has a monument in Washington, D.C. It looks like this.



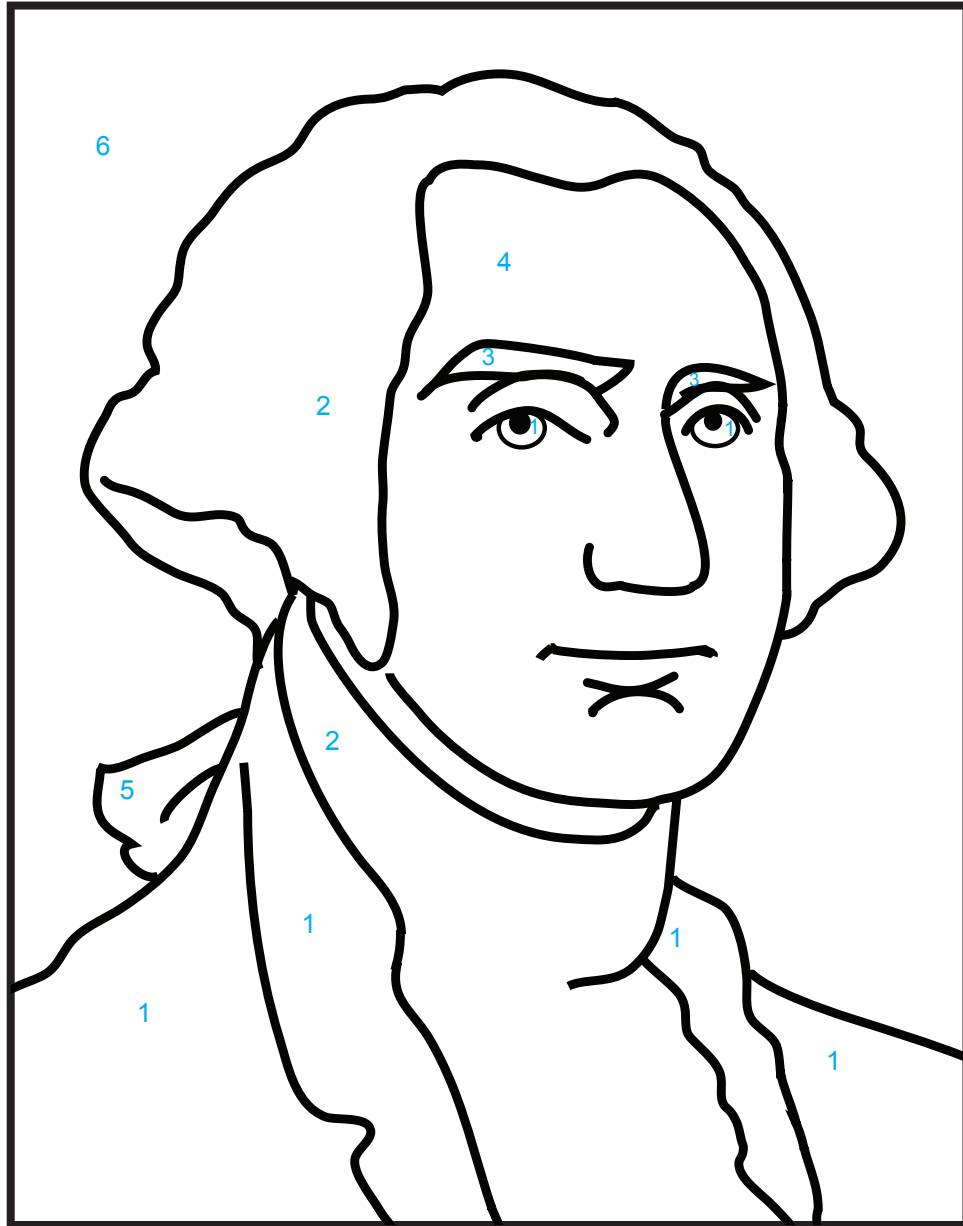
Design your own monument for George Washington. Draw a detailed picture of your monument, and explain why you chose the design for your monument. Think about what you want people to remember most about George Washington when they see your monument.

When people see my monument, they will remember that George Washington was _____

_____.

Painting a Portrait of President Washington

Use the color key to color this portrait of George Washington.



KEY

1-blue 2-white 3-black 4-peach 5-red 6-gray



George Washington



You Tell the Story

You will be writing a biography on George Washington. First, organize your ideas. The topic sentence is done for you.

Topic Sentence: George Washington was called the “Father of our Country.”
List 3 main ideas that explain why Washington was the “Father of our Country.”

Main idea 1: _____

Main idea 2: _____

Main idea 3: _____

Concluding idea: Use new words to repeat the most important fact about George Washington. Why was he the “Father of Our Country”?

Example:

Topic Sentence: George Washington was called the “Father of Our Country.”

Main idea 1: He was the Commander In Chief of the American Army.

Main idea 2: He won the Revolutionary War so we could be independent from England.

Main idea 3: He was the first president of the United States.

Concluding idea: George Washington was a very important man in the history of our country.



George Washington



You Tell the Story

Now it is time to put your ideas together.

George Washington was _____
Topic Sentence

_____ .

First, he _____
Main idea 1

_____ .

He also _____
Main idea 2

_____ .

Last, he _____
Main idea 3

_____ .

As you can see, _____
Concluding idea

_____ .

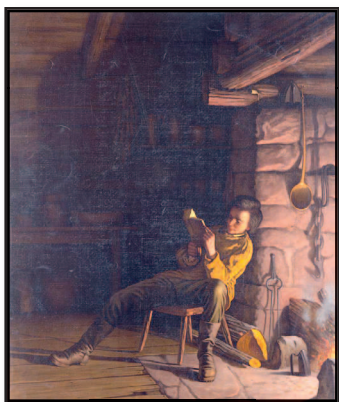
_____ .

Abraham Lincoln



Finding the Facts

Abraham Lincoln was our 16th president and often called “Honest Abe.” Read about Abraham Lincoln to learn why he is one of our most well-known presidents. After you read, complete the sentences.



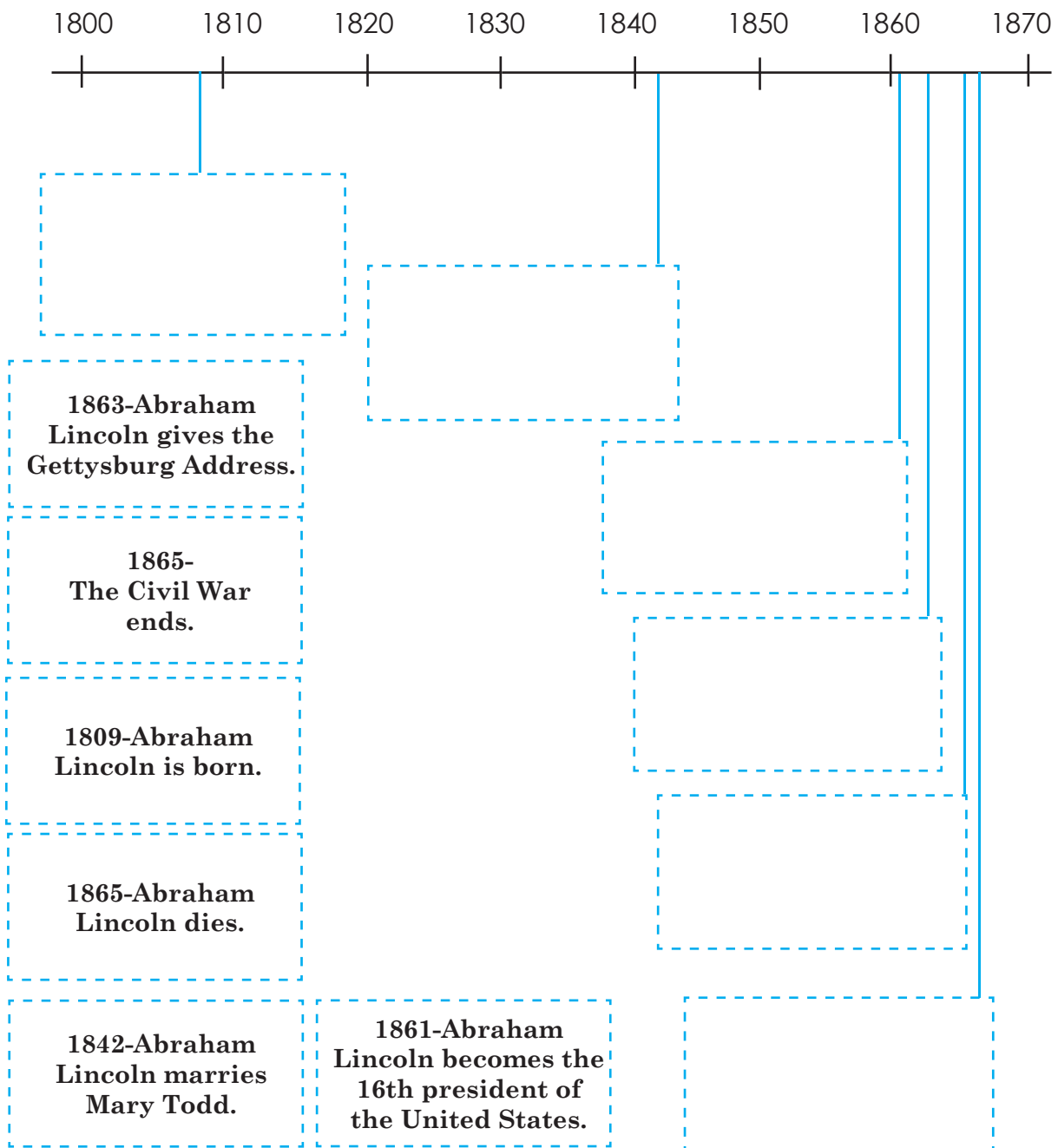
Abraham Lincoln was born in a **log cabin** in the state of Kentucky on February 12, 1809. He and his sister worked on their family farm. When his family moved to Indiana, Abe helped build the family’s new home. Abe didn’t get to go to school very often, but he **loved to read**, and he would walk miles to borrow books. When he grew up, Abe had many different jobs. He was a shopkeeper and a mailman. Finally, Abe decided to study law, became a **lawyer**, and moved to Springfield, Illinois. There, he married Mary Todd. Abe and Mary had four children. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected to be our **16th president**. While he was president, the **Civil War** began. Our country was divided. The northern states were fighting against the southern states. During the war, Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves. He also wrote a very famous speech called the Gettysburg Address. President Lincoln gave this speech to try to keep the United States together. The war lasted five years, and President Lincoln was killed just five days after the war ended. The United States had lost their president.

- 1) Abraham Lincoln was born in a _____.
- 2) More than anything, Abraham Lincoln loved to _____.
- 3) Abraham Lincoln studied law and became a _____.
- 4) Abraham Lincoln was elected to be our _____ president in 1860.
- 5) Lincoln was president during the _____ War.

A Timeline for Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln's Life

Match the correct year and event with the space on the timeline. Cut and paste the events, and place them in the correct order on the timeline.





Abraham Lincoln



Design a Monument

A monument is a sculpture or a building that helps people to remember an important person or event. Abraham Lincoln has a monument in Washington, D.C. It looks like this.



Design your own monument for Abraham Lincoln.

Draw a detailed picture of your monument, and explain why you chose the design for your monument. Think about what you want people to remember most about Abraham Lincoln when they see your monument.

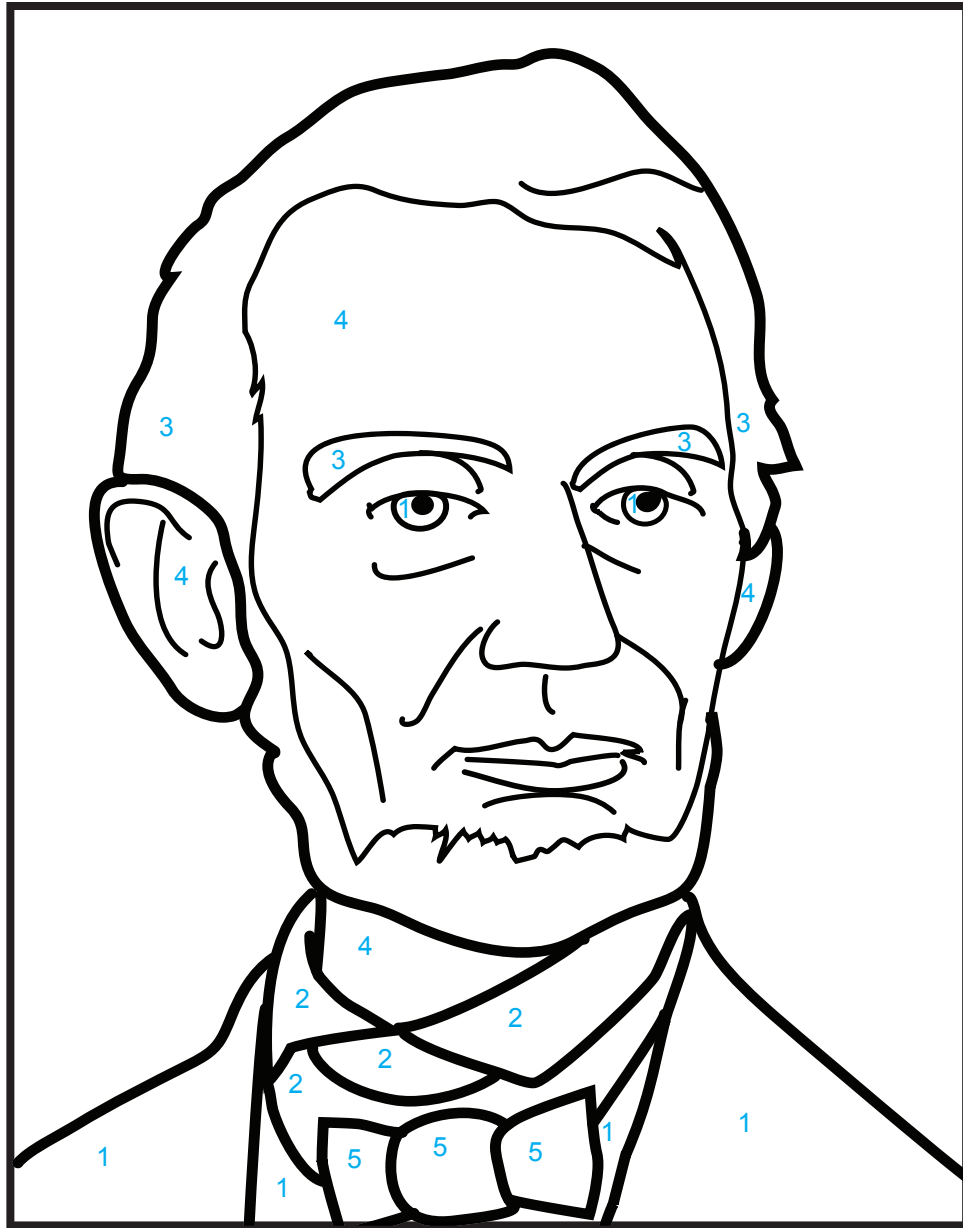
When people see my monument, they will remember that Abraham Lincoln

was _____

_____.

Painting a Portrait of President Lincoln

Use the color key to color this portrait of Abraham Lincoln.



KEY

1-gray 2-white 3-black 4-peach 5-red



Abraham Lincoln



You Tell the Story

You will be writing a biography on Abraham Lincoln. First, organize your ideas. The topic sentence is done for you.

Topic Sentence: Abraham Lincoln was a very busy president.

List 3 main ideas that explain why Lincoln's time as president was so difficult.

Main idea 1: _____

Main idea 2: _____

Main idea 3: _____

Concluding idea: Use new words to repeat the most important fact about Abraham Lincoln. Why was Lincoln so busy during his time as president?

Example:

Topic Sentence: Abraham Lincoln was a very busy president.

Main idea 1: War broke out after he became president.

Main idea 2: The north was fighting the south.

Main idea 3: He wrote the Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves.

Concluding idea: He had to keep the United States together.



Abraham Lincoln



You Tell the Story

Now it is time to put your ideas together.

Abraham Lincoln was _____

Topic Sentence

Main idea 1

First, he _____

_____ .

Main idea 2

He also _____

_____ .

Main idea 3

Last, he _____

_____ .

Concluding idea

As you can see, _____

Barack Obama

Finding the Facts

Barack Obama was elected to be the 44th president of the United States of America. Read about the challenges and success that Barack Obama has had in his life. After you read, complete the sentences.



Barack Obama is the son of an African man and an American woman. His father was born in a little village in the country of Kenya. His mother was from a small town in the state of Kansas. When they met, Barack's parents were both going to college in Hawaii. Barack Obama was **born in Hawaii** on August 4, 1961. When Barack was very young, his father moved back to Kenya, and his mother raised him on her own in Hawaii and Indonesia. When he was 10 years old, Barack moved in with his grandparents. He lived with them in Hawaii, and he spent his days studying, body surfing, and playing basketball. Barack went to college in Los Angeles and New York. As time went on, he earned a law degree from Harvard. Barack Obama met **Michelle Robinson** when he was living in Chicago. They married and had two daughters, **Malia and Sasha**. Obama was a civil rights lawyer and a law professor. He served for eight years as a state senator for Illinois. Today, Barack Obama is our **44th president**, and the first **African-American president of the United States**. He was reelected to the office in November 2012 and is currently serving his second term. When he can find the time, President Obama still loves a good game of **basketball**.



- 1) Barack Obama was born in _____.
- 2) Barack Obama was elected to be our _____ president.
- 3) Barack Obama is the first _____ president of the United States.
- 4) President Obama lives in the White House with his wife, _____, and his daughters, _____ and _____.
- 5) President Obama's favorite sport to play is _____.

A Timeline for Barack Obama

Barack Obama's Life

Match the correct year and event with the space on the timeline. Cut and paste the events, and place them in the correct order on the timeline.



2012-Barack Obama
is elected for a
second term as
president.

1997-Barack Obama
becomes an Illinois
state senator.

1961-Barack Obama
is born in Hawaii

2009-Barack Obama
becomes the 44th
president of the
United States.

1992-Barack Obama
marries Michelle
Robinson.

Painting a Portrait of President Obama

Use the color key to color this portrait of Barack Obama.



KEY

1-brown 2-white 3-black 4-blue 5-red

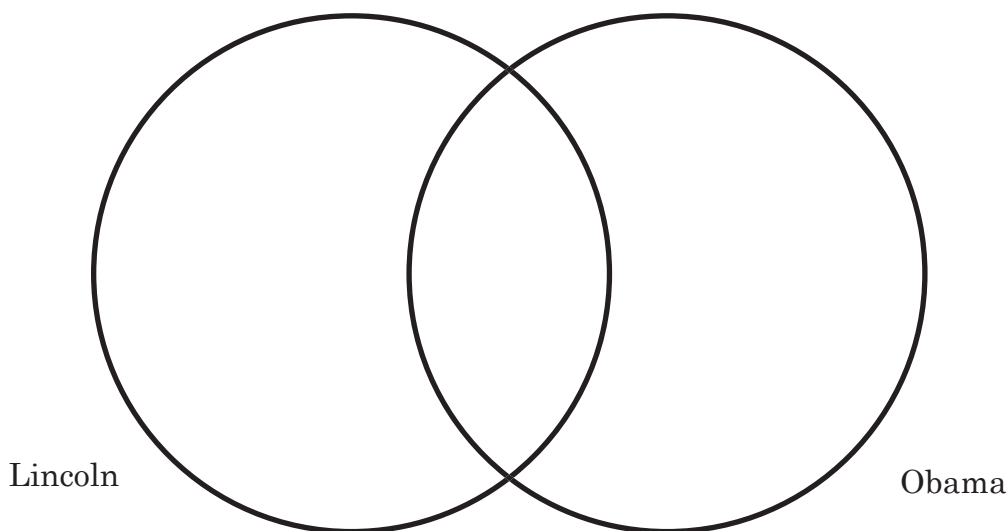
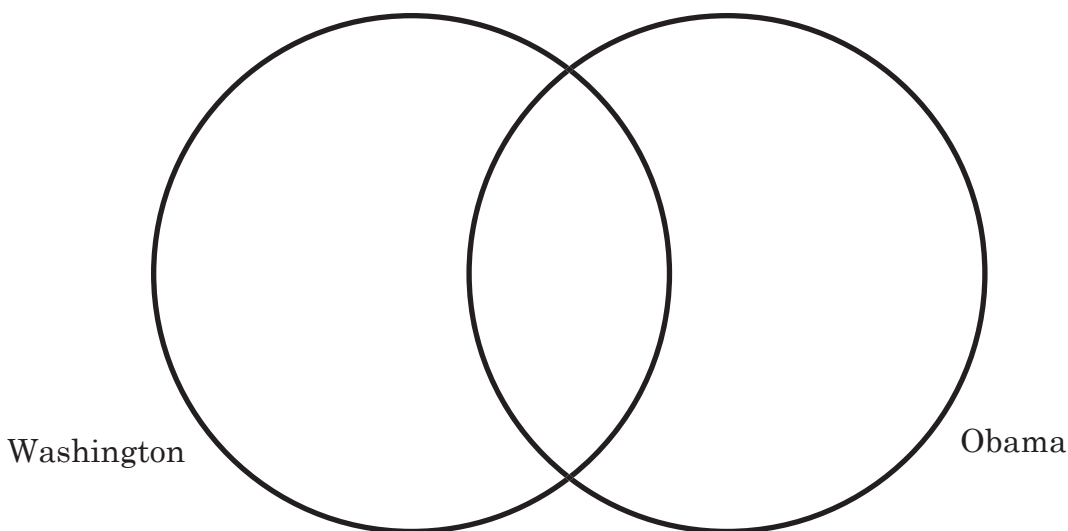
Put on Your Thinking Cap for President Obama



Use the Venn Diagrams below to compare the life of President Obama to the lives of President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln. Write each phrase in the correct sections of the Venn Diagrams.

Born in Hawaii
President of U.S.
Born in Virginia
Lawyer
Surveyor

Raised two children
Was married
Was president during the Civil War
Born in Kentucky





Making Suggestions

Think about three things you think President Barack Obama should do as president of the United States. Write a letter to President Obama and tell him why you think these things are important. As a concluding sentence, explain how doing these three things will make Barack Obama a better president.

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you to suggest a few things that I think you should do as president of The United States. First, I think you should _____
Suggestion #1
_____ because _____.

Next, I suggest you _____
Suggestion #2
because _____.

Finally, I think you should _____
Suggestion #3
_____.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I think if you do these three things, you will _____
Concluding Sentence
_____.

Sincerely, _____
Your name



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