

## Lesson Plan

### Changing Ideas

**Book:** *Abraham Lincoln*

**Series:** Influential Presidents

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students explore how Abraham Lincoln's ideas about slavery changed over time.

### Supplies

- Several copies of the *Abraham Lincoln* book
- Pens or pencils
- Changing Ideas Guided Reading Assignment (attached)

### Before the Activity

Read through the *Abraham Lincoln* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide students into groups of four or five. Print a Changing Ideas GRA for each group.

### Activity

Abraham Lincoln is known as the president who worked to end slavery in the United States. Slavery was a key issue in his election, but his beliefs about slavery changed over time. To help students learn more about Lincoln's shifting views, divide them into groups of four or five. Give each group a GRA and a copy of the *Abraham Lincoln* book. Students should use the book to answer the questions.

### Evaluation

Collect the GRAs at the end of class. Give students 1 point for each correct answer, for up to 10 points total.

### Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5), and the National Council for the Social Studies standards 2, 5, and 6.

# Changing Ideas

## Guided Reading Assignment

1. Read pages 16 and 17 of the book. At this point, who did Lincoln think had the power to end slavery?
2. According to those pages, how long did Lincoln think it would take for slavery to end?
3. Now read page 19. By this time, how had Lincoln's views on slavery changed? What goal did he add?
4. Turn to page 20 and read that page. What was the purpose of Lincoln's order in 1863?
5. Were most slaves freed right away? Why or why not?
6. According to page 20, what was Lincoln's order called?
7. According to page 24, which two important events happened in April 1865?
8. Next, read pages 26 and 27. What did the Thirteenth Amendment do?
9. What did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments do?
10. How did Lincoln's views change from his first term to his second term?

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## Guided Reading Assignment **ANSWER KEY**

1. Read pages 16 and 17 of the book. At this point, who did Lincoln think had the power to end slavery?

The states, not the national government.

2. According to those pages, how long did Lincoln think it would take for slavery to end?

Slowly over time.

3. Now read page 19. By this time, how had Lincoln's views on slavery changed? What goal did he add?

He thought that slavery should end in all states, not just in new ones. And he thought that slavery should end right away, not slowly over time.

4. Turn to page 20 and read that page. What was the purpose of Lincoln's order in 1863?

To make slavery illegal in states that had left the Union.

5. Were most slaves freed right away? Why or why not?

No. He could not force the states to follow his order.

6. According to page 20, what was Lincoln's order called?

The Emancipation Proclamation

7. According to page 24, which two important events happened in April 1865?

The Civil War ended, and Lincoln was shot.

8. Next, read pages 26 and 27. What did the Thirteenth Amendment do?

It made slavery illegal everywhere in the United States.

9. What did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments do?

The Fourteenth Amendment said Black people were US citizens. The Fifteenth Amendment gave Black men the right to vote.

10. How did Lincoln's views change from his first term to his second term?

At first, he believed that only states should have the power to end slavery. He thought it would happen over a long time. Later, Lincoln changed his mind. He wanted the government to end slavery everywhere. He wanted this to happen right away.