



ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

LAW-RELATED EDUCATION



You and Mr. Lincoln:

A classroom activity for grade school students

You might be very much like President Abraham Lincoln, or you might be very different. How are you the same and how are you different?

- As a child, Abraham Lincoln had to help his mother and father with chores. He would carry water from a well or a stream into the house, or he would chop wood for a fire. What chores do you do to help around the house?
- As a child, Abraham Lincoln had little chance to go to school and when he was able, he had to walk almost two miles and sometimes more to his school. How far away from your home is your school? How do you get to school?
- If Abraham Lincoln wanted to speak with a friend or neighbor, he would walk to that person's home. If he wanted to speak with someone farther away, he would write a letter. If you want to speak with your best friend, how do you contact him or her?
- Abraham Lincoln liked to wrestle. What kinds of sports do you enjoy?

- When Abraham Lincoln had to travel a long distance, he would ride a horse, or ride in a carriage or take a train. How do you travel when you go somewhere far from your home? Would President Lincoln recognize the vehicle you use? Have you ever ridden a horse?
- Abraham Lincoln had a number of pets throughout his life, mostly dogs and cats. His dog was named Fido. Do you have a pet?
- When Abraham Lincoln was fully grown, he stood six feet, four inches tall. How tall are you? How tall is your teacher? Mark 6 feet, four inches tall in the wall in your classroom so you can imagine how tall President Lincoln was.
- Lincoln's children were named Robert, Edward, William and Thomas. Is there anyone in your classroom with those names?
- For much of his childhood, Abraham Lincoln helped his father on their family farm. Do you know anyone who owns a farm? Have you ever visited a farm?
- As a child, Mr. Lincoln lived in a one-room log cabin. Have you ever visited a log cabin? How many rooms are there where you live?
- Mr. Lincoln was right handed. How many in your class are right handed?
- Mr. Lincoln had grey eyes. Does anyone in your classroom have gray eyes?
- Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. Is there anyone in your classroom with a birthday on February 12th? Of the students in your classroom, whose birthday falls closest to February 12th?
- Abraham Lincoln had a nickname. He was sometimes called Honest Abe. Does anyone in your classroom have a nickname?
- Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky, then moved to Indiana, and finally he moved to Illinois. As President, he lived in Washington, D.C. Can you find these places on a map?

Conclude the classroom discussions by asking the students to color a picture of Abraham Lincoln found in ISBA's Abraham Lincoln coloring book for this activity. Copies may be found at <http://www.isba.org/lre/coloringbook.pdf>