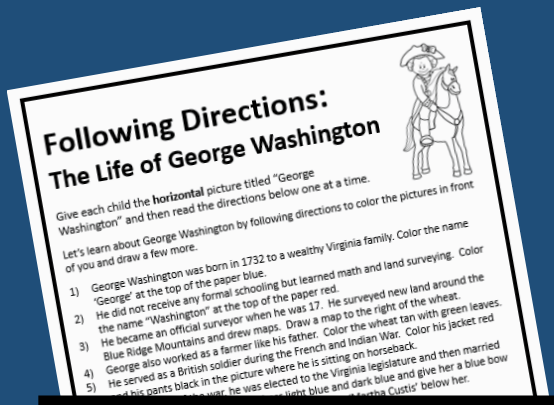

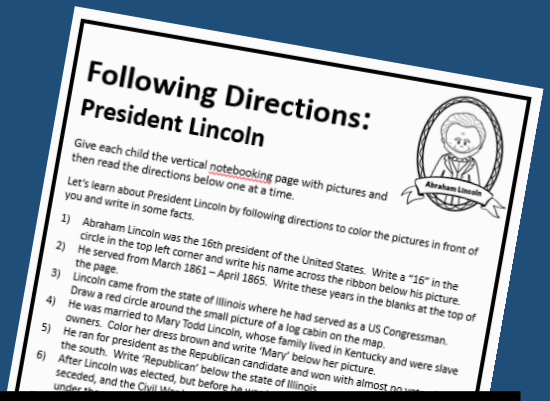

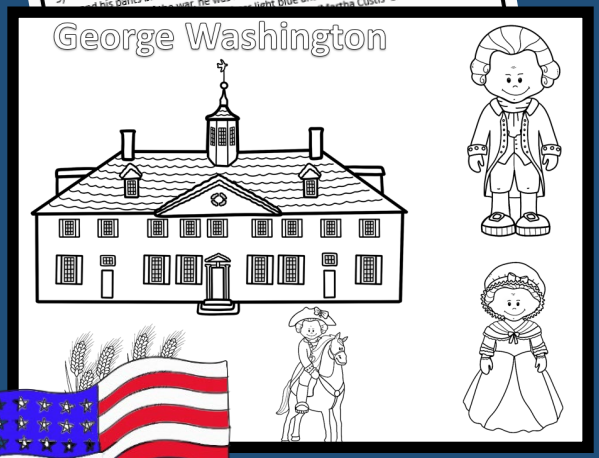

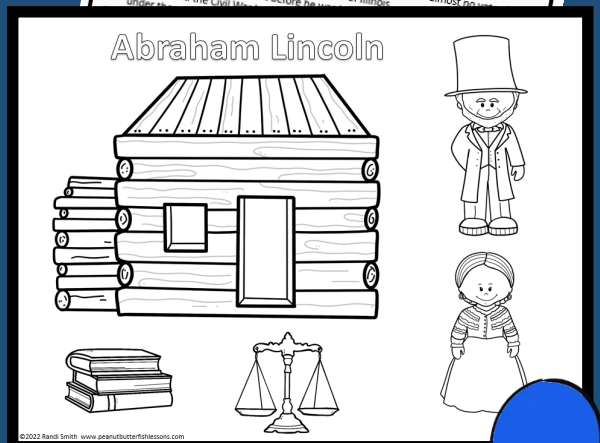

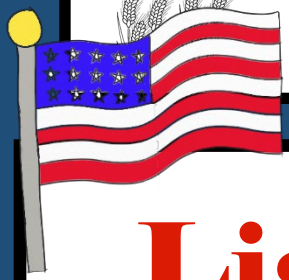

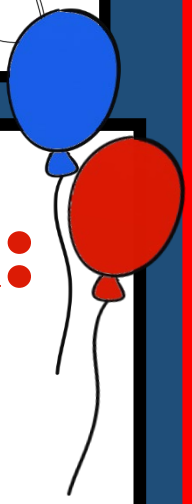

Listening to Learn:

US Presidents

Sample

Randi Smith

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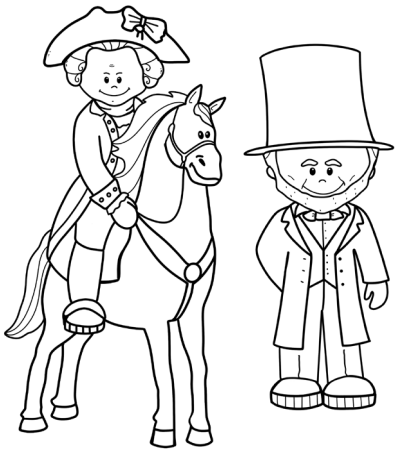


Learn by Listening: US Presidents Sample

This sample contains three sets of directions for George Washington and three sets for Abraham Lincoln.

The first two sets accompany each other and tell about the men's lives outside of their presidencies. The first has students color the pictures and the second has them cut them out and glue them on construction paper or blank sheet of paper to make a scene.

The third set of directions leads students through coloring and writing on a notebooking type page for each president where they learn more about their time as president.

Choose which directions are appropriate for your children, but many students will enjoy and benefit from completing all three sets of directions for each man.

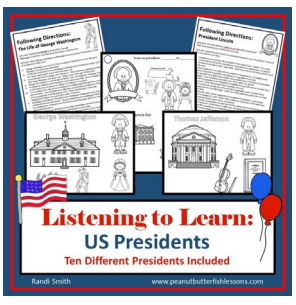
For children working at simple levels, break directions up, help them find locations, or modify the directions in other ways to help them be successful. When the directions call for writing words, you can spell them for children or if that is still too hard, just have them write the first letter.

If the directions are too easy for your child, give two at a time. Or make it even harder by giving your child something to remember (a word, phrase, number, etc.), then give her the two directions. Once she has completed the directions, ask her what she was supposed to have remembered.

All these activities are to help your children learn how to follow directions and to give them practice. They are NOT tests. The goal is for your children to experience **at least 80% success**. Modifications will help your children achieve this level of success. As your children become better at following directions, decrease the amount of help you are giving them.

Pictures by:

For More Activities Like This:



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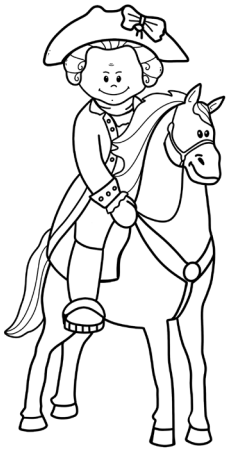
Following Directions:
The Life of George Washington



Give each child the **horizontal** picture titled "George Washington" and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let's learn about George Washington by following directions to color the pictures in front of you and draw a few more.

1) George Washington was born in 1732 to a wealthy Virginia family. Color the name 'George' at the top of the paper blue.
2) He did not receive any formal schooling but learned math and land surveying. Color the name 'Washington' at the top of the paper red.
3) He became an official surveyor when he was 17. He surveyed new land around the Blue Ridge Mountains and drew maps. Draw a map to the right of the wheat.
4) George also worked as a farmer like his father. Color the wheat tan with green leaves.
5) He served as a British soldier during the French and Indian War. Color his jacket red and his pants black in the picture where he is sitting on horseback.
6) In the middle of the war, he was elected to the Virginia legislature and then married Martha Custis. Color Martha's dress light blue and dark blue and give her a blue bow on her bonnet but leave the bonnet white. Write 'Martha Custis' below her. (*Modification*: Break into two or three parts, if needed.)
7) Washington attended the First and Second Continental Congresses where the 13 colonies broke away from Britain. He was named the commanding general of the Continental Army. In the picture of him at the top of the page, give him a dark blue jacket and white pants.
8) After the colonists won the Revolutionary War, Washington returned to his estate, Mount Vernon. Give Mount Vernon a red roof and a brown door.
9) A few years later, he was part of the Constitutional Convention, which resulted in our current Constitution. Draw a piece of paper to the left of Martha and write 'Constitution' on it.
10) In 1789, he was elected the first president of the United States. At the top of the paper, color his vest red and his shoes black.
11) After two terms, Washington returned to Mount Vernon where he passed away two years later. Color the shutters on Mount Vernon black.

Great job! The next set of directions will direct you to cut out the pictures and glue them onto a new piece of paper.

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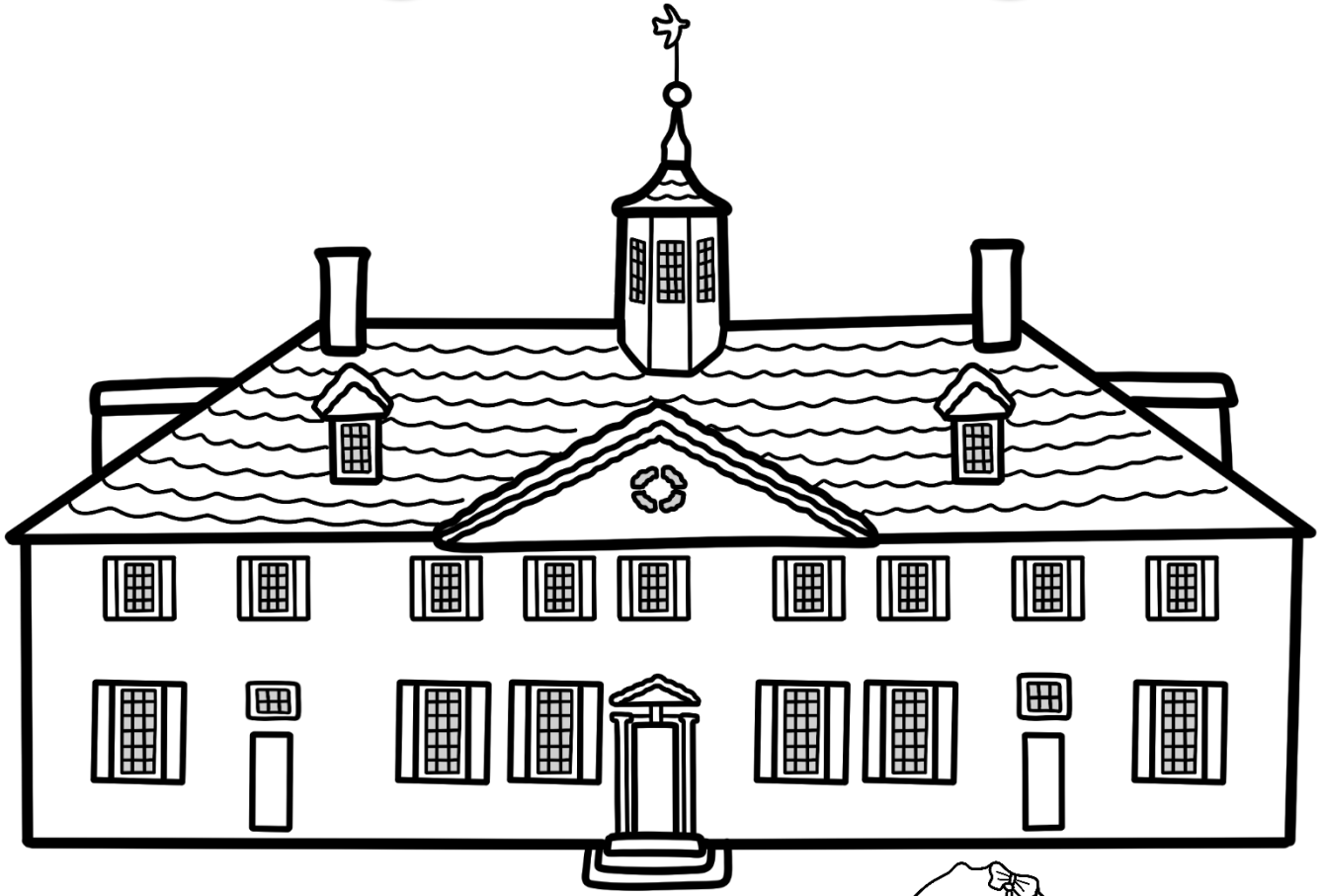
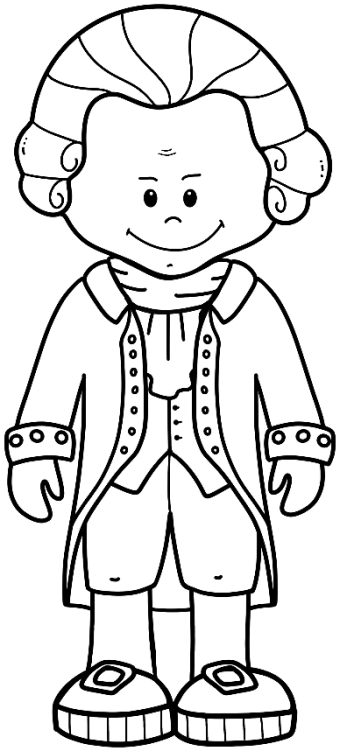
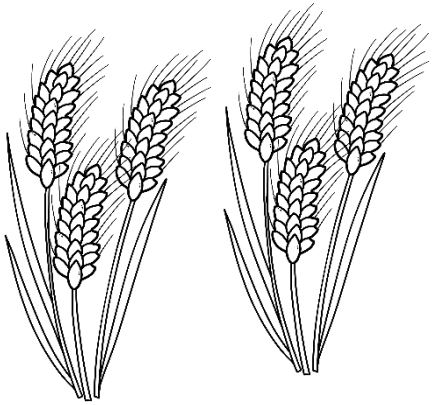
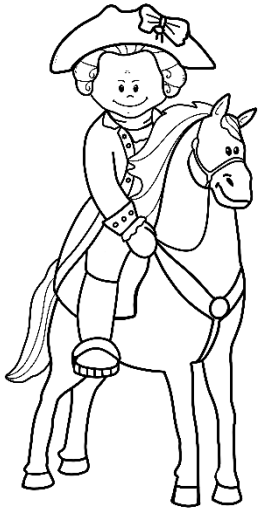
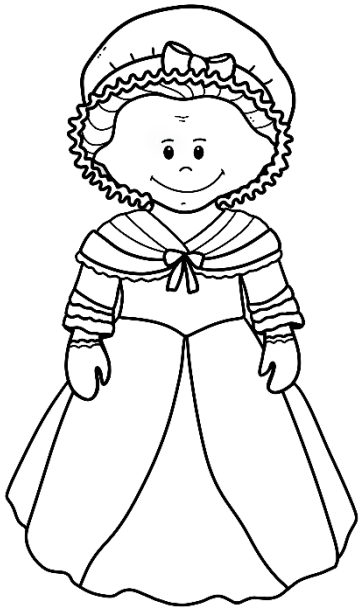
George Washington











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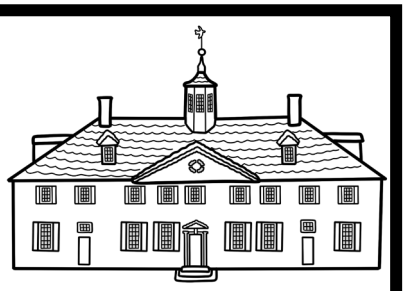
Following Directions:
A Scene of Washington's Life



Have each child pull out their **picture from the previous directions** and give everyone glue, scissors and a blank piece of paper. Have them turn the blank paper horizontally and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let's learn more about George Washington by following directions to cut out and glue your pictures into a scene.

1) Mount Vernon was built in 1734 by George Washington's father. Cut it out and glue it in the center of your blank paper.
2) George lived there with his brother when he was a teenager. He even practiced his surveying skills by drawing maps of the gardens. Cut out and glue the map in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.
3) George Washington became owner of the home in 1761, when his half-brother's widow died. Cut out the standing George Washington and glue him standing in front of the house and then cut out his name and glue it at the top of the paper. (*Modification*: Break into two parts, if needed.)
4) Mount Vernon sits along the Potomac River and was expanded twice by George Washington. Draw a river coming out from behind each side of the house and continuing to the edges of the paper.
5) When George and Martha married, she brought her two children from her first marriage to live at Mount Vernon. Cut out Martha and glue her to the right of George.
6) Washington had five separate farms on the property and grew over 60 crops. Cut out the wheat and glue it to the left of the house.
7) George often rode on horseback through his farm fields. Cut out George on horseback and glue it near the wheat.
8) George was called away from Mount Vernon a lot and Martha often went with him even during the Revolutionary War. Draw a dirt road leading from George and Martha to the bottom of the paper.
9) He was also called away to the Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention. Cut out the Constitution you drew and glue it to the right of the road.
10) Both George and Marth are buried in a vault at Mount Vernon. Draw a small red brick building in the bottom, left corner of the paper.

Great job! What is the most interesting fact you learned about George Washington?

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Following Directions:
President Washington

Give each child the **vertical notebooking page** with pictures and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let's learn about President Washington by following directions to color the pictures in front of you and write in some facts.

1) George Washington was the first president of the United States. Write a '1' in the circle in the top left corner and write his name across the ribbon below his picture.
2) He served from April 1789 to March 1797. Write these years in the blanks at the top of the page.
3) He received all the electoral votes from each state. Write 'Unanimous Election' below Mount Vernon.
4) Washington came from the state of Virginia. Draw a red circle around the small picture of Mount Vernon on the map.
5) He was married to Martha Washington, who became the first First Lady of the United States. Color her dress blue and write 'Martha' below her.
6) Prior to becoming president, George Washington was the commanding general of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Color his tricorn hat black, his coat blue and his horse brown. Above the flag, write 'General Washington'. (*Modification*: Break direction into two parts, if needed.)
7) When Washington became president, there were 13 states. Color every other stripe on the flag red starting with red at the top. Color the area around the stars dark blue. (*Modification*: Break direction into two parts, if needed.)
8) As president, he oversaw the creation of a strong national government. Below the flag write "Strong National Government".
9) After two terms, he chose not to run again for president, setting a tradition of presidents serving for a limited amount of time. He returned to Mount Vernon. Color the roof of Mount Vernon red and draw green grass In front of it.
10) In 1888, the Washington monument was built in Washington DC to remember him. Color the outer circle at the base of the monument green and write "1888" below it.
11) In 1932, his portrait was put on the quarter. Color the quarter gray and write "25 cents" below it.
12) In 1869, his portrait was put on a $1 note. Draw a green dollar bill to the right of the quarter.

Great job! Color any other pictures you would like and add other facts you know about President Washington.

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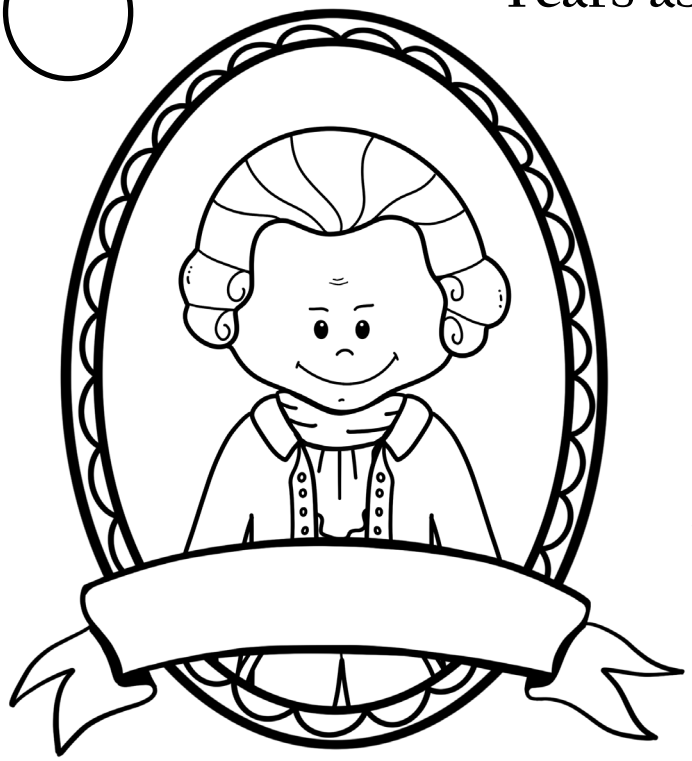
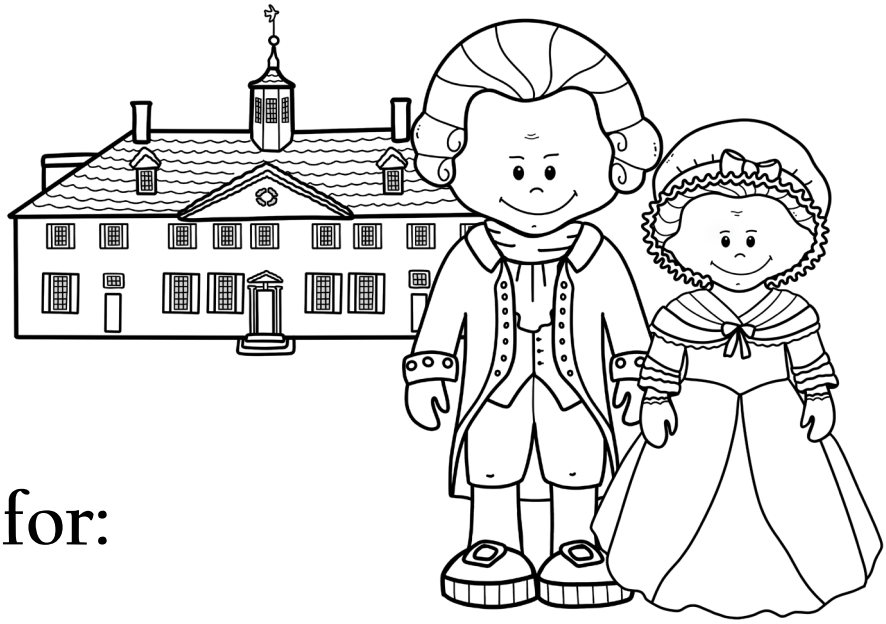
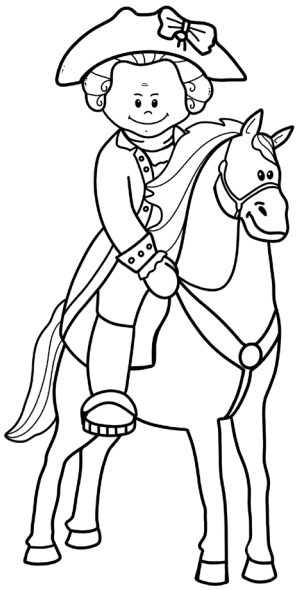
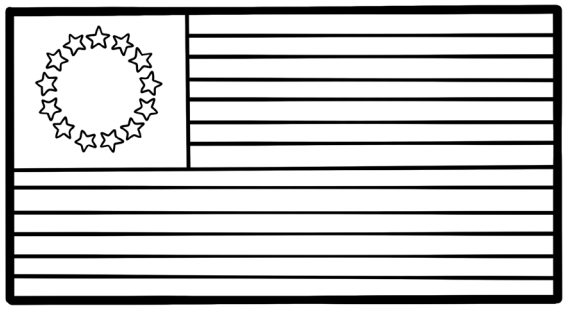
Years as president: _____ to _____

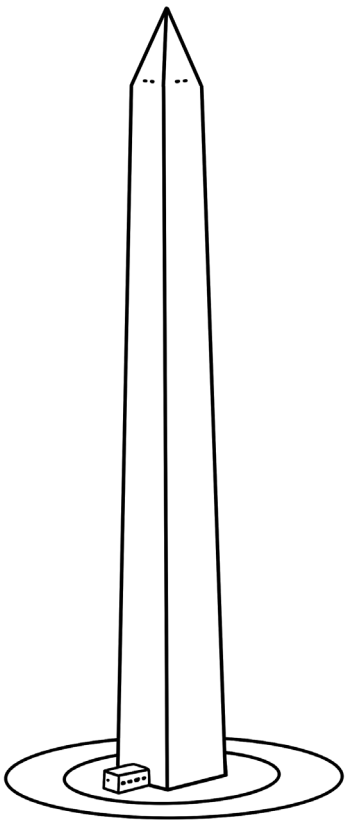




As president, known for:







How we remember him:

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Following Directions:
The Life of Abraham Lincoln

Give each child the horizontal picture titled “Abraham Lincoln” and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let’s learn about Abraham Lincoln by following directions to color the pictures in front of you and draw a few more.

1) Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 to a poor family from Kentucky. Color the name ‘Abraham’ at the top of the paper brown.
2) They lived in a one room log cabin. Color the walls of the cabin light brown and the roof dark brown.
3) The family later moved to Indiana and Illinois and Abraham helped his father farm. Draw a chicken to the right of the log cabin.
4) Lincoln only attended one year of school growing up but was an avid reader. Color the books in the stack blue and green.
5) As an adult, he worked in a general store, and became a postmaster. Color the name ‘Lincoln’ at the top of the paper green.
6) In 1842, he married Mary Todd who came from a large, wealthy family and was well-educated. Color her dress brown and write ‘Mary Todd’ below her.
7) They had four sons, but only one survived to adulthood. Write ‘four sons’ in between Abraham and Mary.
8) Lincoln served four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives. He often used his stovepipe hat to carry papers when he traveled. Draw a paper in the middle of his hat and color the rest of the hat black.
9) Lincoln eventually became a lawyer by studying books on his own. Color the scales, which are a symbol of being a lawyer, yellow.
10) He handled a variety of cases as a lawyer including several concerning railroad bridges being built too low for riverboats to pass under. Draw a riverboat to the right of the scales.

Great job! The next set of directions will direct you to cut out the pictures and glue them onto a new piece of paper.

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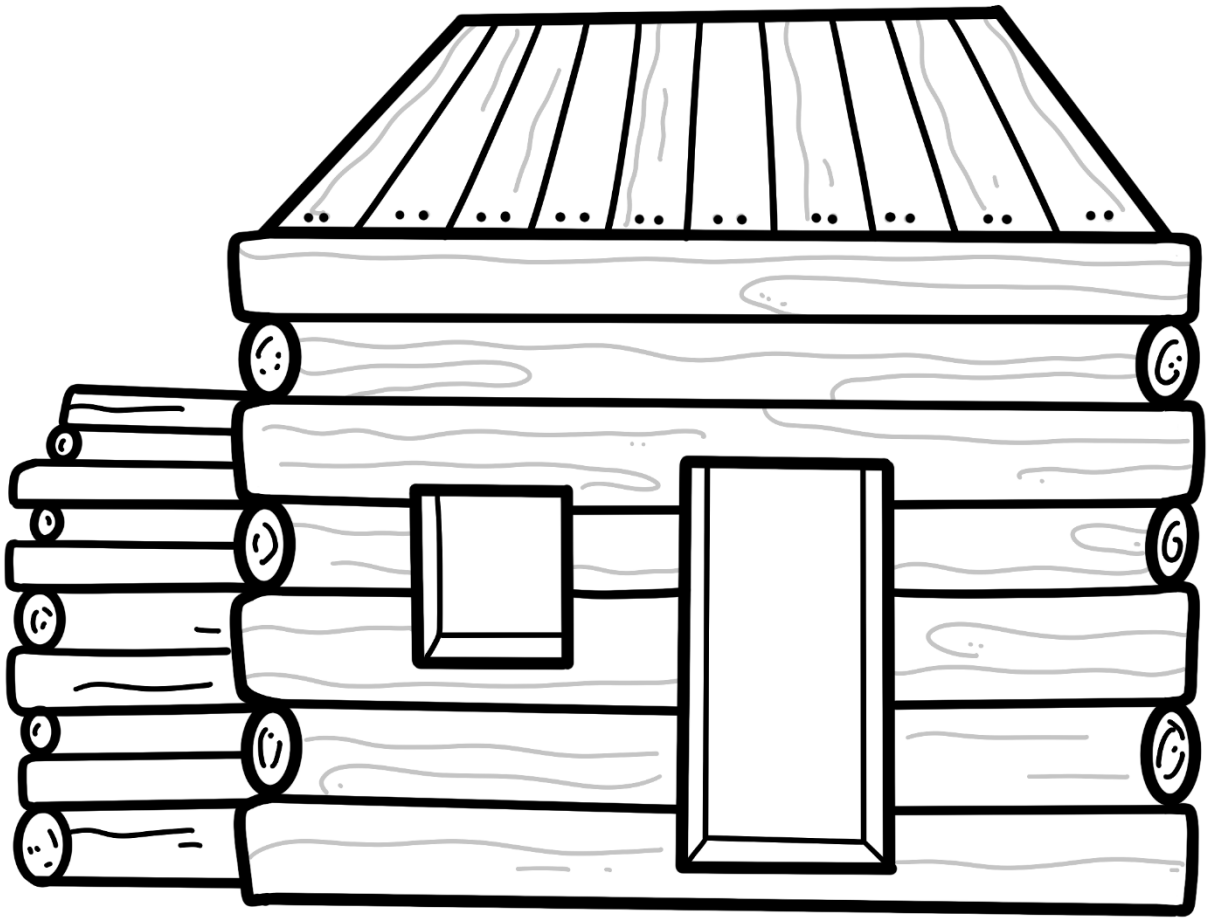
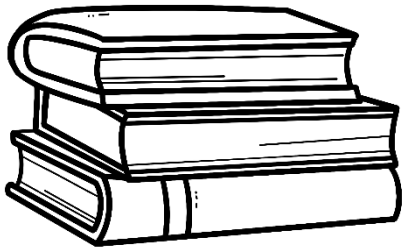
Abraham Lincoln





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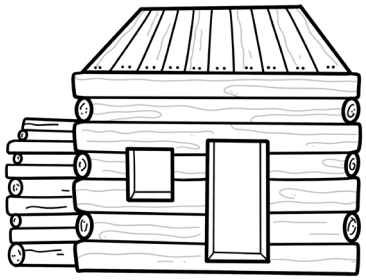
Following Directions:
A Scene of Lincoln's Life



Have each child pull out their **picture from the previous directions** and give everyone glue, scissors and a blank piece of paper. Have them turn the blank paper horizontally and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let's learn more about Abraham Lincoln by following directions to cut out and glue your pictures into a scene.

1) Abraham Lincoln lived in a few different log cabins throughout his childhood as his family moved around. Cut out the log cabin with the chicken and glue it in the center of your blank paper. Then, cut out his name and glue it to the top of the paper. (*Modification*: Break into two parts, if needed.)
2) Abraham's mother died when he was nine and his eleven-year-old sister helped take care of him. Draw a picture of a boy and girl to the left of the cabin.
3) His father remarried and Abraham was said to be close to his step-mom. Draw a taller woman next to him and his sister.
4) As a child and teen, Lincoln preferred reading over physical labor such as working on the farm. Cut out the books and glue them in the upper left-hand corner.
5) However, he did enjoy wrestling and became the county wrestling champion. Write 'wrestling' below the drawing you made of Abraham.
6) Lincoln was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1836, which means he became a lawyer. Cut out the scales and the riverboat and glue them in front of the cabin.
7) Abraham and Mary first became engaged in 1840, but Lincoln called off the wedding. Cut out Lincoln and glue him to the right of the stack of books.
8) They eventually married in 1842. Mary was known to struggle with depression and mood swings throughout their marriage. Cut out Mary and glue her next to Lincoln.
9) The Lincolns lived in a nice middle-class house in Springfield, Illinois before they moved to Washington DC. Make a small drawing of a two-story house with nine windows in front of them.
10) After Lincoln died, his body was returned to Springfield, Illinois by train and is buried in a tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery. In the bottom middle of your paper, draw a gray obelisk and write '1865' on it. (Look up a picture of an obelisk, if needed.)

Great job! What is the most interesting fact you learned about Abraham Lincoln?

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Following Directions:
President Lincoln

Give each child the vertical notebooking page with pictures and then read the directions below one at a time.

Let's learn about President Lincoln by following directions to color the pictures in front of you and write in some facts.

1) Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. Write a "16" in the circle in the top left corner and write his name across the ribbon below his picture.
2) He served from March 1861 – April 1865. Write these years in the blanks at the top of the page.
3) Lincoln came from the state of Illinois where he had served as a US Congressman. Draw a red circle around the small picture of a log cabin on the map.
4) He was married to Mary Todd Lincoln, whose family lived in Kentucky and were slave owners. Color her dress brown and write 'Mary' below her picture.
5) He ran for president as the Republican candidate and won with almost no votes from the south. Write 'Republican' below the state of Illinois.
6) After Lincoln was elected, but before he was inaugurated, seven southern states seceded, and the Civil War began. Color the military boats gray and write 'Civil War' under them.
7) In September 1862, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery on January 1st, 1863. Write '1863' in between the broken chains and write 'Emancipation Proclamation' below the shackles.
8) Lincoln led the United States through the Civil War, which ended a few months after Lincoln's reelection. Write 'ended in 1865' after the words 'Civil War'.
9) Five days after General Lee surrendered ending the Civil War, Lincoln was shot by the actor John Wilkes Booth while attending a play at Ford's theatre. Write 'Assassinated 1865' above the Lincoln Memorial.
10) In 1909, Lincoln's portrait was put on the US penny. Color the penny brownish-orange and write '1 cent' below it.
11) In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial opened in Washington DC. Draw a small wreath at the base of the statue in the middle of the memorial and write 'Lincoln Memorial' below it.

Great job! Color any other pictures you would like and add other facts you know about President Lincoln.

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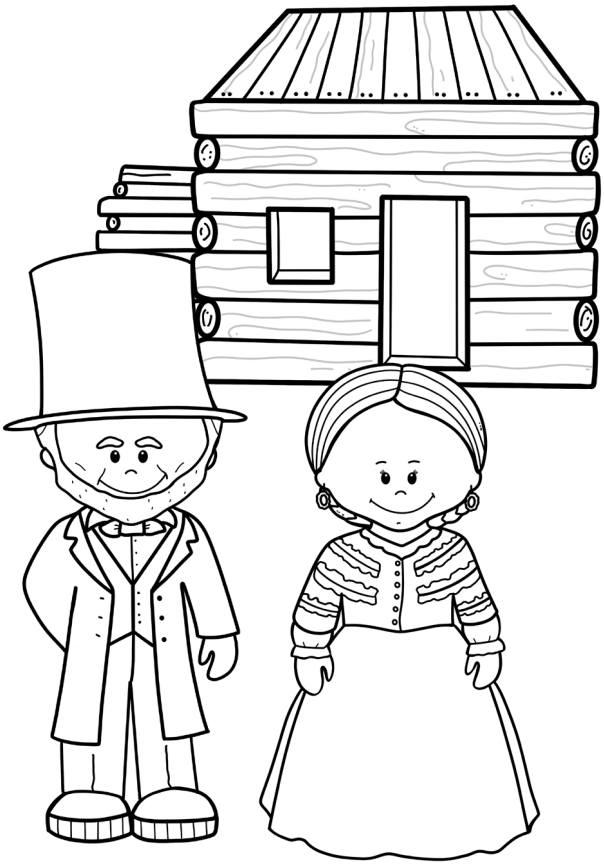
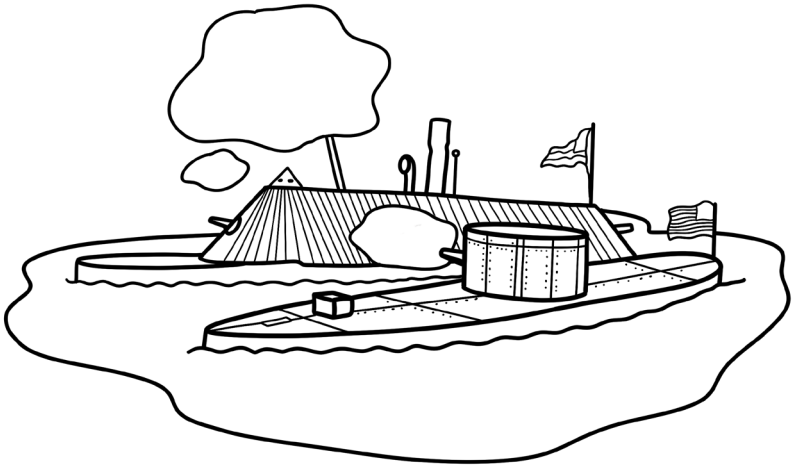
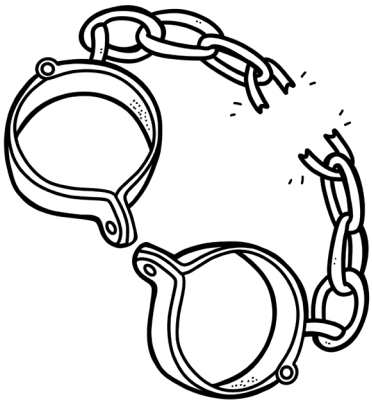
Years as president: _____ to _____

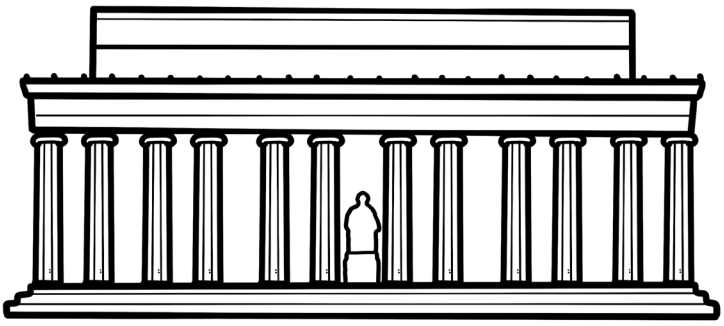


As president, known for:





How we remember him:



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