

Name _____

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1809. He had little formal education. He loved to learn and taught himself. He eventually became a lawyer and a politician. In 1860, he was elected the 16th president. Shortly after becoming president, the Civil War began. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which gave the slaves freedom in the states that were not under the Union's control. The Civil War lasted for four years. During that time, Lincoln steered the North to victory. After the war, Lincoln wanted to forgive the southern states and have them rejoin the Union. He also gave all southerners a pardon who pledged their loyalty to the Union.

During Lincoln's second term of presidency, he was assassinated. On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth came into the presidential box at the Ford Theater and shot Lincoln in the head. Booth jumped from the balcony and escaped. He was later captured and shot because he refused to surrender to the soldiers. Lincoln had several doctors tend to him immediately, but they were unable to help him. He died the following day. His body was taken back to Illinois for burial. President Johnson was sworn in as president just hours after Lincoln died.

Highlight the text to prove your answers.

1. What was Lincoln's greatest accomplishment? Support your answer. _____

2. Do you agree with how he treated the Confederate states? Support your answer. _____

3. Define assassinated. _____

4. Use evidence from the text to support the opinion that Lincoln was a determined man. _____
