

TIDBITS OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Explain the reason for Presidents' Day.
2. Understand the importance of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and how they helped shape our nation.
3. Discern whether information about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln is true or false.

TEKS: SS K.1A, 2A, 14B, 1.1A, 2A, 17B, 2.1A, 18B

Materials: Books about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln such as The Picture Book of George Washington and The Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln by David Adler, a laminated set of the "Washington & Lincoln Learning Stations" attachments, tape, paper, pencil

Vocabulary: false, pardon, true

Teaching Strategy:

1. Ask the students if they know why Presidents' Day, which is on February 20, is celebrated. Relate that the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22) used to be celebrated separately. In 1971 the third Monday of February was proclaimed as Presidents' Day, to honor Washington and Lincoln and all past presidents of the United States. Lead a discussion with students concerning the reasons why they think past presidents of our country should be honored.
2. To give students background information on both presidents, read students a children's book about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
3. Tape the twelve "Washington & Lincoln Learning Stations" in numerical order around the classroom on the walls. Give each student a piece of paper and instruct students to crease the paper in half, hot dog bun style, to form 2 columns. Students should put the heading "True" at the top of the column on the left side of the paper and "False" above the column on the right side of the paper. They should write the numbers 1-12, down the left side of the paper.
4. Group students in pairs, and instruct them to visit each Learning Station, read the information, and then decide whether the information about Washington or Lincoln is true or false. Students should put a checkmark in the correct column of their paper.
5. After students have visited each station, review the correct answers and relate the reason the information was true or false.

6. Debrief the activity by having students respond to the following questions:

- Why is it important that we celebrate Presidents' Day in our country?
- What was the most interesting fact that you learned from the information listed on the Learning Stations? Why did you find it interesting?
- Who do you think was a greater president: Washington or Lincoln? Why?
- Abraham Lincoln had the ambition or desire to be president as a child. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
- Draw a symbol that you think best represents Presidents' Day. Explain it to the class.

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students design a monument for George Washington or Abraham Lincoln from recyclable items. The monument should represent at least five facts about the person they chose. Students should be able to explain the significance of the design of their monument to classmates

Washington & Lincoln Learning Station Key

- 1. Abraham Lincoln issued a presidential pardon to free a turkey.** *(True. For Christmas the Lincoln family received a turkey as a gift. Lincoln's son, Tad, became so fond of the turkey that Lincoln didn't have the heart to eat it. The turkey was named "Jack" and kept as a family pet.)*
- 2. Abraham Lincoln hated his nickname "Honest Abe."** *(True. He disliked the name, so his friends and family called him "Mr. Lincoln" or just "Lincoln.")*
- 3. George Washington's false teeth were made out of wood.** *(False. His false teeth were made out of elephant and walrus tusks and of cow, hippo, and even human teeth.)*
- 4. George Washington was the only president that didn't live in the White House.** *(True. Washington chose the design for the White House, but it still was not finished when he died in 1799, so he never got to live in it.)*
- 5. Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president we have ever had.** *(True. Lincoln was our tallest president at the height of six foot, four inches tall. James Madison was the shortest at five feet four inches.)*
- 6. George Washington had his horses' teeth brushed every morning.** *(True. Washington loved animals very much.)*
- 7. Abraham Lincoln kept some of his important papers in his stovepipe hat.** *(True. His hat made him look even taller than he actually was.)*
- 8. The story about George Washington chopping down a cherry tree and confessing the truth to his dad because George "could not tell a lie" is really a true story.** *(False. A writer made up the story to show how honest Washington was.)*
- 9. George Washington called his wife, Martha, "Sweetlips" and "True Love."** *(True. Those were the names of his dogs.)*
- 10. Abraham Lincoln wanted to be president ever since he was a little boy.** *(True.)*
- 11. George Washington was almost called "His Highness" instead of "Mr. President."** *(True. Since Washington was the first president, the first U.S. Senate didn't know what to call him. A committee decided on the title "His Highness, the President of the United States of America, and Protector of their Liberties.")*
- 12. Abraham Lincoln's sons were allowed to have their pet goats in their bedrooms in the White House.** *(True. Lincoln bought the goats for his sons, Tad and Willie.)*

Resources:

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much About the Presidents*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2002.

O'Connor, Jane. *If the Walls Could Talk: Family Life at the White House*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004.

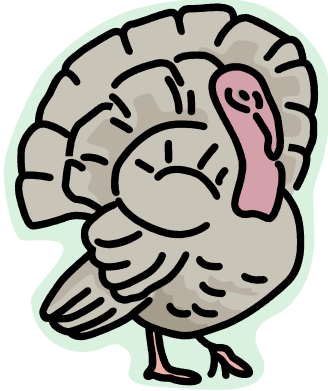
St. George, Judith. *So You Want to Be President*. Philomel Books, 2000.

Zullo, Allan. *The President Who Pardoned a Turkey And Other Wacky Tales of American History*. Watermill Press, 1996.

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WASHINGTON & LINCOLN LEARNING STATIONS

Station #1



Abraham Lincoln issued a presidential pardon to free a turkey.

Station #2

Abraham Lincoln hated his nickname "Honest Abe."



Station #3



George Washington's false teeth were made out of wood.

Station #4

George Washington was the only president that didn't live in the White House.



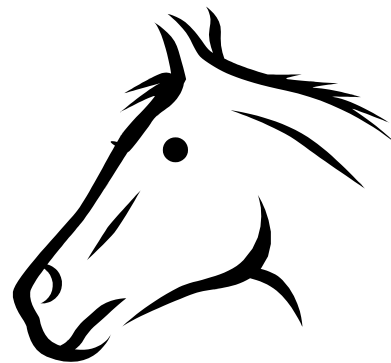
Station #5



Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president we have ever had.

Station #6

George Washington had his horses' teeth brushed every morning.



Station #7



Abraham Lincoln kept some of his important papers in his stovepipe hat.

Station #8



The story about George Washington chopping down a cherry tree and confessing the truth to his dad because George said that "he could not tell a lie" is a true story.

Station #9

George Washington called his wife, Martha, "Sweetlips" and "True Love."



Station #10



Abraham Lincoln wanted to be president since he was a little boy.

Station #11



George Washington was almost called "His Highness" instead of "Mr. President."

Station #12

Abraham Lincoln's sons were allowed to have their pet goats in their bedrooms in the White House.

