



## PRESIDENT'S DESK GEORGE WASHINGTON AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**Learning Objectives:** The students will...

1. Use skills of search to discover key elements of the lives of designated past president.
2. Recognize the contributions to our history made by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

**TEKS:** 8.4B, 8.8A, 8.30C

**Materials Needed:** desk pattern, markers

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. After the students have studied George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, assign each student one of these great presidents. The student will then be required to design a desk befitting that president.
2. Teachers should introduce the activity by noting what is on the teacher's desk, which may include a lesson plan book, grade book, pictures of children or grandchildren, calendar, books, etc.
3. Ask students to analyze the teacher's desk and draw conclusions about the teacher from the items on the desk. Help students to conclude that one can tell a great deal about a person from what is on or around the person's desk.
4. Included on or around each desk should be the following:
  - a. A calendar with a significant date marked. This date could be his inauguration day, or another date that would be significant to that individual's presidency.
  - b. Picture(s) of an event(s) important to the time period in which this president served. (note—this can be drawn by the student or copied if necessary).
  - c. A book, newspaper, or magazine which the president might have been reading.
  - d. A written document that the president might have been creating, such as a letter, memo, announcement, or law. Students should be able to explain what the document contains.
  - e. A memento from the president's life, such as an award, certificate, or diploma.
5. When the appropriate information has been gathered, students will draw items on the desk pattern. After they have designed their desk they are to find another student with the other president and exchange information. After sharing the desk of both presidents, have the students work together to write a short summary of what they learned about the role each man played in American history.

