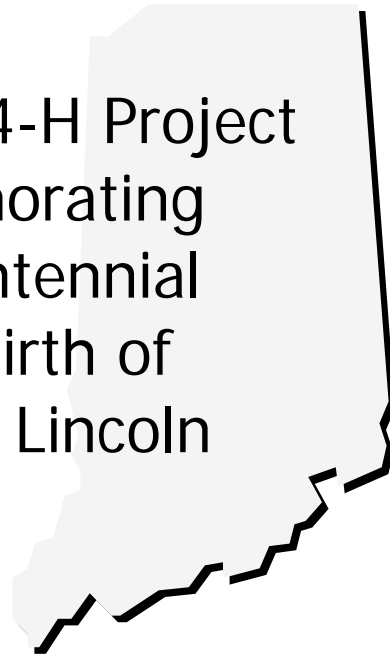


# Abraham Lincoln

"There I Grew Up"

*Abraham Lincoln*

An Indiana 4-H Project  
commemorating  
the bicentennial  
of the birth of  
Abraham Lincoln



# “There I Grew Up”

Abraham Lincoln

“We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union,” wrote Abraham Lincoln in describing his move to Indiana in 1816. His father “removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in my eighth year. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. **There I grew up.**”

1. Roy P. Basler, editor, *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, Letter from Abraham Lincoln to Schuyler Colfax*, July 6, 1859, Volume III, p. 390-391.

Abraham Lincoln's formative years (ages 7-21)  
were spent in Indiana from 1816-1830.

It is our sincere desire for 4-H members  
to explore the great life  
of one of Indiana's most notable residents.

4-H Project curriculum authors,  
Marcia Werne and Kendall Martin

# Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial 4-H Project

## General Guidelines

**Any** 4-H member regardless of grade level may complete a fair exhibit from **any** of the activities listed.

Members are encouraged to follow personal interests and modify projects to make them age appropriate.

Each project exhibit **must** include some sort of documentation and support material such as notebooks, journals, scrapbooks, etc. This documentation may be presented in any combination of written form, photographs, oral recorded form, and/or recorded musical form on video or audio tape.

Projects will be judged by the following grade levels:

Mini 4-H / Exploring 4-H: Grades K-2

Level A: Grades 3-5

Level B: Grades 6-8

Level C: Grades 9 and above

A Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded in each level

A Grand and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded to the top two overall projects.

*(Exception: Mini 4-H / Exploring 4-H are not considered for champion or above.)*

## Suggested Exhibits:

(Members may do as many activities as they wish, but, must complete an exhibit for the fair from only **one** activity listed below.)

**1. Rail-Splitter's Homestead:** Build a model of a log cabin or create a replica of the Lincoln Homestead. Be creative when selecting building materials for cabins, fences, barns, etc. Remember Lincoln had a nick-name "rail-splitter". Members may also choose to paint or draw a scene depicting a pioneer homestead.

**2. Gee, Haw, Whimmy Diddle:** Make a toy that would be like a toy from the Lincoln era. Toys like Jacob's Ladder, Jacks, Jumping Jims, Checkers, Whimmy Diddles, Button and string "Buzz Saws", Cup and Ball and other handmade toys were popular during this time period.

**3. Fourscore and Seven Years Ago:** Explore one of Lincoln's speeches. Interpret what he meant, explore the historical significance and the political climate in which the speech was first presented. Explain why the speech is an important part of our history. Perhaps some members would like to memorize and record one of Lincoln's speeches on video or audio.

**4. The Lands of Lincoln:** Discover the geographical impact Lincoln made. Pay close attention and highlight those that relate to Lincoln's time in Indiana. Maybe members can plan a trip to visit the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Historical Site or Lincoln State Park. Perhaps members might want to hunt for other sites visited by Lincoln. Members who like to take photographs may choose to make a collage of actual Lincoln historical sites.

**5. Tailor Made:** Research clothing, shoes, hats and accessories made and worn in Lincoln's time period. Members may choose to design an outfit and explain the occasion, event or work for which it was designed. These items may be displayed on dolls, mannequins or dress forms, etc. Members may also choose to create a clothing item that may be modeled in the county style show.

**6. Honest Abe:** Lincoln exhibited outstanding personal character traits. One of those characteristics earned him the nickname "Honest Abe". Members could explore the personal traits he developed that contributed to his success and Presidency. Some exhibit ideas could be: a poster explaining those traits, a character summary in essay form or a research project that explores his popularity and rise to prominence among the citizens of the United States.

**7. Tools Made Life Better:** Pioneer life required many tools for daily survival. The majority of these tools were handmade for specific purposes. Members could explore the tools that interest them. Members might choose to make a poster or photo collection of such tools or perhaps make a reproduction(s) and explain its intended use(s). Avoid potentially harmful tools (such as an ax with a real head). Make a safe reproduction of the tool from wood or other materials.

**8. Homespun Charm:** Pioneer families often used folk crafts as recreation and gift-giving. Members could enjoy making similar folk crafts to exhibit. Such crafts might include (but, are not limited to): patchwork quilting, embroidery samplers, doll-making, weaving, knitting, whittling, etc.

**9. Settler Cooking:** Pioneer homesteads produced much of their own food. Members might try churning butter, baking homemade bread or cornbread, or cooking homegrown vegetables, etc. Food exhibit items should include recipes that would use ingredients that pioneer families would have available to them. Members might choose to prepare a meal for their family that would resemble a pioneer family meal. Photos of the event could show family enjoying the meal in pioneer family costumes. Perhaps other members may be interested in food preservation techniques then and now and explain how they are the same or how they differ.

**10. From Here to There:** Transportation was not an easy task for settlers. Members might explore which modes of transportation were used in Lincoln's day. A poster displaying the types or transportation or a model of a locomotive train, carriage, wagon or ferry would be some ideas for members to try.

**11. Not All Fun and Games:** Pioneer families often played games which allowed them to have fun, but, also helped them be prepared for the demands of their survival. Wrestling, foot races, climbing trees, jumping rope, etc. would have been fun, yet strengthen their bodies at the same time. How might people of today use this method to be healthier?

**12. Book Learning By Candlelight:** Lincoln loved education and was an avid book reader. Books played an important role in his education and development. Members might choose to read a book that would have been available during Lincoln's time and report on its contents and how it might have played a part in Lincoln's education. Other members might like to explore what a pioneer schoolhouse was like and how it is different and / or similar to schools today.

**13. Myth Buster:** Many myths and legends surround Abraham Lincoln. Members could explore popular conceptions / misconceptions for historical accuracy. It could be fun and educational to collect short descriptions and play “myth buster” to determine which are true and which are not. Did Lincoln really receive a letter from a young girl that suggested he would look better with a beard? Did Austin Gollaher save him from drowning when he was a small boy?

**14. Working for a Living:** Pioneer families tended to live in communities that had the things they needed. It might be interesting to explore what careers and occupations were necessary during pioneer days. Which occupations performed vital services and products to early settlers? Which jobs did Lincoln have that helped him grow into adulthood?

**15. For the History Buff:** Topics such as the Civil War, The Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln’s Presidency, his duel with James Shields, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, his early political career, the contents of his pockets when he was assassinated and many other such topics would be great research projects or poster ideas. There are many biographies of Lincoln. Some members might like to read and summarize one such book.

**16. Anything Lincoln:** This category allows members to explore other Lincoln related topics that interest them. Some idea starters might be: storytelling, “The Parallel in History” connection and similarities between Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, burial sites of Lincoln family members, Genealogy of the Lincoln family, toy construction using pennies, Lincoln coin collection, etc.

**Sample of Judge Score Sheet:**

Judging Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Work
Relevance to Abraham Lincoln				
Historical Accuracy				
Educational Value				
Creativity / Interesting Presentation				
Completeness of Documentation				
Neatness / Project Mechanics				
Explanation of Project (community judging conversation)				
Bonus: Highlights Lincoln in Indiana				

Judge Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Ribbon Placing \_\_\_\_\_

# Some Abraham Lincoln Historic Sites

## Birthplace

### ***Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site***

2995 Lincoln Farm Road  
Hodgenville, KY 42748  
Phone: 270-358-3137  
Fax: 270-358-3874

## Boyhood

### ***Knob Creek Farm: Hodgenville, Kentucky***

You'll find this boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln in a beautiful setting several miles from his birthplace. When the Lincoln family lived here the road by the cabin was the main route from Louisville to Nashville.

The Lincolns moved to the property in 1811, attracted by the fertile land. The 230-acre farm featured a creek running through rich bottomland bordered by steep hills that resembled knobs. In an 1860 letter Lincoln said, "The place on Knob Creek ... I remember very well; but I was not born there .... My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

Lincoln was two years old when his family arrived at Knob Creek. His sister Sarah was four, and his brother Thomas was born the following year (he died a few days later and was buried on the property). In 1860, Lincoln recalled that during their stay, "he and his sister were sent, for short periods, to ABC schools, the first kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by Caleb Hazel." These were "blab" schools, where students learned by repeating their lessons aloud, over and over. Years later, Lincoln annoyed his law partner by reading the newspaper aloud in their office, but explained that he learned better by using two senses.

The Lincoln family moved from Knob Creek to Indiana in 1816 and their house was torn down in 1870. The cabin was reconstructed on the original site in 1931, possibly including logs from Austin Gollaher's home (Lincoln's schoolmate who rescued him from drowning in the creek). Some of the furnishings are period antiques donated by descendants of early settlers.

This historic site is open daily from April through October. The National Park Service took over the property from a private owner late in 2001. For more information call 270/358-3137 or write: Lincoln's Boyhood Home, 7120 Bardstown Road, Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748.

### ***Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial: Lincoln City, Indiana***

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial preserves the site of the farm where Abraham Lincoln spent 14 formative years of his life, from the ages of 7 to 21. He and his family moved to Indiana in 1816 and stayed until 1830 when they moved on to Illinois.

This splendid National Park is the site where Abraham Lincoln grew up. Here you can learn about the lives of Abraham Lincoln and his family, who lived here in a pioneer community from 1816 to 1830.

Visitor Center: The Memorial Visitor Center features two Memorial Halls, a museum with a variety of exhibits and a 15-minute orientation film entitled Forging Greatness - Lincoln in Indiana. Books, postcards and other educational materials are offered for sale in the bookstore.

Walking Tour: Take a peaceful walk up the wooded Lincoln Boyhood Trail to the gravesite of Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and to the Cabin Site Memorial.

Living History: The Lincoln Living Historical Farm is a working pioneer homestead with a cabin, outbuildings, split rail fences, animals, gardens, and field crops. Rangers in period clothing perform a variety of activities typical of the 1820s. Grounds are open year-round. The farm is staffed from mid-April through September. Located on Highway 162 across from Lincoln State Park in Lincoln City.

### ***Lincoln State Park, Lincoln City, IN***

Lincoln State Park is located among the rolling hills and shady forests of Southern Indiana in Lincoln City. This is the area where Abraham Lincoln grew up as a boy.

Boating is permitted with electric trolling motors only and a boat launch ramp is available. Visitors may rent canoes, paddleboats and rowboats. Fishing, hiking, picnicking, and swimming are forms of recreation the park offers. Other park features include a beach, a nature center, seasonal naturalist services, and various cultural arts programs.

Campers may stay at one of the 150 class A camping sites or at one of the 120 Class C camping sites. Class A sites feature electrical hookups, picnic tables, fire rings, parking spurs, restrooms, showers, and drinking water supplies. Class C sites offer pit toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, parking spurs, and drinking water supplies. Campers may access a general store and dumping station as well. There are also 10 family cabins available for overnight guests.

The Lincoln Boyhood National Monument is adjacent to the park and features a Memorial Visitor Center with museum, a working pioneer farm, the Lincoln cabin site, gravesite of Lincoln's mother, and the historic Trail of Twelve Stones. The working pioneer farm is open May 1st through September 30th and the Trail of Twelve Stones is open daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

## **Later in Life**

Lincoln spent his early adulthood in the village of New Salem, Illinois. It is located outside of Petersburg about 19 miles northwest of Springfield. Here, he held a number of different jobs including storekeeper, postmaster, politician, surveyor, and general handyman. He studied law and left New Salem to become a lawyer in Springfield on April 15, 1837. Visitors can see his grocery store and all of the rebuilt structures that existed when Lincoln walked the streets of New Salem.

The Old State Capitol is located in downtown Springfield. It was built in 1839 and served as the hub of state government until 1876 when the current State House was completed. Lincoln used the law library, argued cases before the Supreme Court, gave his famous "House Divided" speech in the Hall of Representatives, and used the Governor's reception area for several months as president-elect. After his assassination, Lincoln's body lay in state in the Hall of Representatives.

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Office contains several offices Lincoln rented with partners Stephen Trigg Logan and later, William Henry Herndon. This building also contains rooms that served as the Federal Court and the Springfield post office. The Lincoln boys enjoyed visiting their father's office. They would throw books about, turn over ink bottles, and chase each other around the rooms.

The Executive Mansion was built in 1855. A year later, William Bissell, a friend of Abraham Lincoln and the first Republican governor, moved into the building. Lincoln was a frequent visitor and attended a number of parties in this building.

The Lincoln Home was purchased in 1844 by Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Most of the decisions concerning the operation and decorating of this building were made by Mary Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln spent a great deal of time away from home attending to his legal practice and political career.

The Great Western Station is where Lincoln left Springfield on his way to Washington, D.C. to become President. He gave his famous "Farewell Address" from the platform of the train.

The Lincoln Tomb is where the Lincoln family is buried. President Lincoln's body was placed in a temporary tomb until enough money could be raised to complete the Lincoln Tomb in 1874. Robbers tried to steal his body in 1876 but were unsuccessful.

## **Some Helpful Resources**

### ***Some Suggested Websites***

<http://www.nps.gov/libo>

<http://www.nps.gov/state/in>

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln.html>

<http://www.lookingforlincoln.com>

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/sites/sites.htm>

<http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Library/newsletter.asp>

### ***Some Suggested Books***

Davenport, Don. In Lincoln's Footsteps: A Historical Guide to the Lincoln Sites in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. Revised edition, Trails Books, 2002.

Gary, Ralph. Following in Lincoln's Footsteps: A Historical Reference to Hundreds of Sites Visited by Abraham Lincoln. Carroll & Graf, 2001.