

# Abraham Lincoln

## 1809-65

■ **1809, Feb 12:**  
Born to poor pioneer farmers in log cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky

Raised in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. Despite little formal schooling, Lincoln reads widely



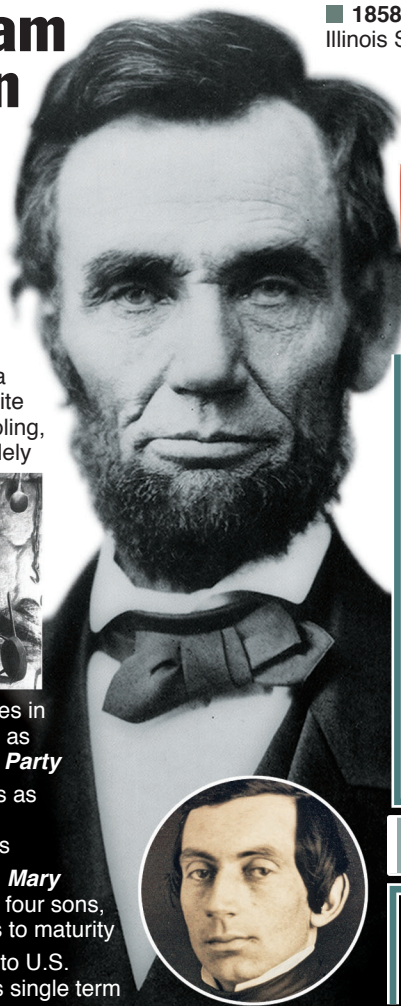
■ **1834-42:** Serves in Illinois legislature as member of **Whig Party**

■ **1836:** Qualifies as lawyer – works in Springfield, Illinois

■ **1842:** Marries **Mary Todd**. They have four sons, but only one lives to maturity

■ **1846:** Elected to U.S. Congress, serves single term

■ **1856:** Instrumental in forming new **Republican Party**



Lincoln in early 1840s

■ **1858:** Runs unsuccessfully for Illinois Senate but gains national recognition with masterful speeches opposing slavery

■ **1860, May:** Wins Republican presidential nomination



**Nov:** Lincoln elected 16th, and first Republican, U.S. President  
Fearing he would ban slavery in South, seven southern states secede from **Union** to form **Confederate States of America** – four more join later. Lincoln vows to preserve Union even if it means war



1860

'61

'62

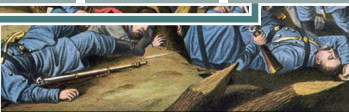
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■ **1861, Apr:** **Civil War** begins as Confederate forces attack **Fort Sumter** in South Carolina

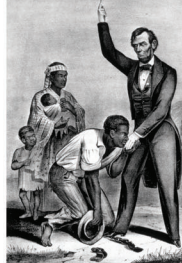


■ **1864, Mar:** New general-in-chief **Ulysses S. Grant** wages war of attrition against South

■ **1863, Jan:** **Emancipation Proclamation**, freeing all slaves within Confederacy, takes effect

**Nov:** Delivers **Gettysburg Address** at dedication of cemetery at site of **Battle of Gettysburg**, bloodiest battle of war

*“that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”*



■ **1864, Nov:** Lincoln re-elected as Union military triumphs herald end to war. In inaugural address he is conciliatory, encouraging Southerners to lay down arms and join speedily in reunion



■ **1865, Apr 9:** Confederate general **Robert E. Lee** surrenders. War ends after four years and loss of 600,000 lives

**Apr 14:** Lincoln assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by well-known actor and Confederate supporter, **John Wilkes Booth**

