**Case Study Abraham Lincoln**  Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the greatest Presidents in our history. Through research you are going to determine how you would rank him/rate him as a President. As you read about him, his speeches, him impact etc think about “does this make him great?” or not?

**Section #1: The Great Speeches of Lincoln and Some Famous Quotes**

**``A House Divided'': Speech at Springfield, Illinois**

**June 16, 1858**

*The Speech was delivered, June 16, 1858 at Springfield Illinois, at the close of the Republican State convention. Mr. Lincoln had been named as their candidate for U. S. Senator*

``A house divided against itself cannot stand…'' I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved---I do not expect the house to fall---but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other….

Did we brave all then, to falter now?---now---when that same enemy is wavering, dissevered and belligerent?

The result is not doubtful. We shall not fail---if we stand firm, we shall not fail. Wise councils may accelerate or mistakes delay it, but, sooner or later the victory is sure to come.

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Source: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln. Volume 2.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

1. What does a “house divided against itself cannot stand?” Do you agree with this statement? Explain.

**Address at Independence Hall**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**February 22, 1861**

*On Abraham Lincoln's inaugural journey to Washington, he stopped in Philadelphia at the site where the Declaration of Independence had been signed. One of the most famous statements in the speech was, "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." This hall also was the place where Lincoln's body lay in state after his assassination in 1865, one of many stops his funeral train made before he was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois.*

… but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope, to the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men….Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world, if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it.

Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there need be no bloodshed and war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course, and I may say, in advance, that there will be no bloodshed unless it be forced upon the Government, and then it will be compelled to act in self-defence…

2. Did Abraham Lincoln want to go to war? Explain.

**First Inaugural Address**

**Washington, D.C.**

**March 4, 1861**

... that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this I deem to be only a simple duty on my part; and I shall perform it …. the declared purpose of the Union that will constitutionally defend and maintain itself.

…I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

3. What do you think Lincoln means by the statement “We are not enemies but friends?” Do you believe others saw it this way? Explain.

**Emancipation Proclamation; January 1, 1863**

…Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[)], and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

4. Who did Abraham Lincoln “free?” What did he ask those who were newly “feed” to stay away from? What did he say about those individuals in regards to the armed services of the United States?

**The Gettysburg Address**

**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

**November 19, 1863**

*now considered the most famous speech by President Abraham Lincoln…*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- 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.

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Source: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln

5. What do you believe the final line “of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish” means?

**Second Inaugural Address**

Fellow-Countrymen:

….With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

6. What is Lincoln saying about the Confederates states at the end of the war? What would he want in order to bring the Union together in your opinion?

**Section #2: Research on Abraham Lincoln. “Who was this man?”**

Go to the following websites and complete the activities

<http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org/lincolns-life/did-you-know/default.aspx> (basic facts then you can go to a timeline etc)

Read the list of interesting facts related to Lincoln. Evaluate them – what two facts do you believe made him a better President? Explain

The Next website may take you some time. Look through the site – find a section of information you find interesting. Read through the information and use the interactive pieces they may have.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns/index.html> - Time of the Lincolns

What section did you read? What did you learn about the “Time of the Lincolns” that you found interesting? How did this impact Lincoln’s Presidency?

The following is an interactive map that shows a variety of information related to the Civil War

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/civilwar/lesson1/>

Write down each category and one interesting fact for each category that you see on the interactive map.

Taken as a whole how did the information on this map impact the outcome of the Civil War?

Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theater --- go to the following site and take the virtual tour.

<http://www.fordstheatre.org/virtual-tour.html> -

Write down notes of interesting facts

Other websites if you have time or for more information

[http://www.constitutioncenter.org/lincoln/#](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/lincoln/) - game related to Abraham Lincoln

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ex_parte_Merryman> (Lincoln taking away Habeas Corpus)

**Final Opinion:** **Write an essay to answer the following question–** Was Lincoln a great President? Why or why not? This must include specific historical detail and examples to back up your opinion. Introduction should include a thesis, no first person, to end you should have a conclusion that should not contain any new information.