

Lesson Plan: Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War (6th Grade)

Grade Level

6th Grade

Time

50 Minutes

Learning Goals (Student-Friendly)

Students will:

- Understand why the Civil War happened
 - Learn who Abraham Lincoln was
 - Explain how Lincoln helped keep the country together
 - Describe how the war changed the United States
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Materials

- Teacher notes (your document)
 - Whiteboard / projector
 - Printed worksheet (optional)
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Lesson Plan Breakdown

1. Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Question on board:

“What makes someone a good leader?”

Students write 1–2 sentences.

 Call on 2–3 students to share.

◆ 2. Direct Teaching (10 minutes)

 **Explain in simple terms:**

- The U.S. was divided over **slavery**
- The North and South disagreed
- Southern states left the country (became the Confederacy)
- Lincoln became president and wanted to **keep the country together**

Key idea to say:

👉 “Lincoln’s main goal was to save the Union (keep the U.S. one country)”

◆ 3. Guided Story (Teacher Talk + Questions) (10 minutes)

Tell this like a story:

- Lincoln grew up poor, with little schooling
- He worked hard and taught himself
- He became president during a very hard time
- The Civil War began
- Later, he helped free slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation

Ask students:

- “Was Lincoln’s job easy or hard? Why?”
 - “What kind of person does this show he was?”
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◆ 4. Activity (Think-Pair-Share) (15 minutes)

 **Question:**

“What would happen if Abraham Lincoln was NOT president?”

Steps:

1. Students think quietly (2 min)

2. Pair with a partner (5 min)
3. Share with class (8 min)

👉 Guide answers:

- The country might have split
 - Slavery might have lasted longer
 - The U.S. might be different today
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◆ 5. Quick Reading & Discussion (5 minutes)

Read aloud (simplified idea from Gettysburg Address):

“All men are created equal”

Ask:

- “What does this mean?”
 - “Why is this important?”
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◆ 6. Exit Ticket (5 minutes)

Students answer:

1. What caused the Civil War?
 2. What was Lincoln’s main goal?
 3. Name one thing Lincoln did
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Simple Worksheet (Optional)

Name: _____

1. What problem caused the Civil War?
2. Who was president during the war?
3. What was Lincoln trying to do?
4. What is one thing Lincoln did?

5. Do you think Lincoln was a good leader? Why?



Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War Quiz (6th Grade)

Name: _____

Date: _____



Part 1: Multiple Choice (1 point each)

1. What was the main problem that caused the Civil War?

- A. Taxes
- B. Slavery
- C. Weather
- D. Money

2. Who was the president during the Civil War?

- A. George Washington
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. John Adams

3. What was Lincoln trying to do at the start of the war?

- A. End all wars
- B. Keep the country together
- C. Move people west
- D. Build cities

4. What does “a house divided cannot stand” mean?

- A. Houses fall down easily
- B. The country cannot stay split

- C. People should live alone
 - D. War is fun
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5. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- A. Ended the war
 - B. Freed slaves in the South
 - C. Made new laws
 - D. Gave land away
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6. What happened to Abraham Lincoln in 1865?

- A. He moved away
 - B. He became a teacher
 - C. He was assassinated
 - D. He quit his job
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 Part 2: Short Answer (2 points each)

7. Why did the Southern states leave the United States?

8. Name one thing Abraham Lincoln did as president.

9. What is one way the Civil War changed the United States?

 Part 3: Opinion (3 points)

10. Do you think Abraham Lincoln was a good leader? Why?

 Answer Key (6th Grade)

Multiple Choice:

1. **B – Slavery**
2. **C – Abraham Lincoln**
3. **B – Keep the country together**
4. **B – The country cannot stay split**
5. **B – Freed slaves in the South**
6. **C – He was assassinated**

Short Answer (Sample Answers):

7.

- They wanted to keep slavery
- They disagreed with the North

8.

- Led the country during the Civil War
- Helped free slaves
- Worked to keep the U.S. together

9.

- Ended slavery

- Kept the country united
 - Made the nation stronger
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Opinion Question:

10.

Answers will vary, but should include:

- Yes, because he kept the country together
- Yes, because he helped end slavery