

## Web Research - English G A6, Unit 3

# Abraham Lincoln

Go to the link listing for today's online lesson: <http://www.djds.de/webres01.htm>

You'll find seven links there:

- 1 Abraham Lincoln – World Book Online Article
- 2 Abraham Lincoln – Timeline and Photographs
- 3 Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln
- 4 The Gettysburg Address
- 5 The Gettysburg Address: German translation
- 6 The Emancipation Declaration
- 7 "The Freed Slave" at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial

The following tasks refer to the respective link numbers. You can take relevant text passages from the web documents and insert them into a Word document of your own (copy & paste); this can be a good basis for your answers. Tasks with an asterisk (\*) should be left for the end of the lesson, in case you finish all the other tasks early.

- 1 Read the World Book Online article and find the following information (it is a very long text, but you only need to look at the first eight paragraphs):
  - a What was the percentage of votes that Lincoln was elected president with? Why was it so low, and how did Lincoln's image change?
  - b Describe the two main tasks Lincoln set himself during the Civil War.
  - c\* Use a search engine to find Winslow Homer's picture "Prisoners from the Front" (recommended: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). What does the picture show?
- 2 Look at the timeline, focusing on the following information:
  - a Where did Lincoln's family originally come from, and when did they arrive in America?
  - b What happened on 12 April 1861?
  - c Another remarkable date was 1 January 1863. What happened, and what strikes you as unusual about it?
- 3
  - a Read the description of the two assassinations and write down two details that you find noteworthy.
  - b Look at the two pictures. Do they remind you of more recent scenes, pictures that were on news programmes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Explain.
- 4&5\*
  - a We read a shortened version of the Gettysburg Address in our coursebook. Read the full text here and compare it to the German translation given at link 5.
  - b State your opinion on the quality of the German version of Lincoln's speech.
- 6 If you read the text carefully, you will notice that not all slaves are proclaimed free. Concentrate on the first paragraph (starting, "That on the first day of January ...") and find out exactly which slaves were free from 1 Jan 1863 on.
- 7\* The Centennial Exhibition of 1876 displayed a sculpture of a "Freed Slave". Read the article to find out what this work of art meant to the African-American visitors of the exhibition and whether they actually felt "free".

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### Answers

- 1 a The American people knew little about Lincoln when he became president. Little in his past experience indicated that he could successfully deal with the deep differences between Northerners and Southerners over slavery. Lincoln received less than 40 per cent of the popular vote in winning the presidential election of 1860. But by 1865, he had become in the eyes of the world equal in importance to George Washington. Through the years, many people have regarded Lincoln as the greatest person in United States history.
- b During the Civil War, Lincoln's first task was to win the war. He had to view nearly all other matters in relation to the war. It was "the progress of our arms," he once said, "upon which all else depends." — Lincoln's second great task was to keep up Northern morale through the horrible war in which many relatives in the North and South fought against one another. He understood that the Union's resources vastly exceeded those of the Confederacy, and that the Union would eventually triumph if it remained dedicated to victory.
- c Homer's picture shows four people who are guarded by a Unionist soldier and his officer. Of the four prisoners, only one wears a proper uniform; one of them is an old man. In the foreground, there are two rifles lying in the sand.
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- 2 a Samuel Lincoln came from Hingham, England; he settled in Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1637.
- b The Civil War began. The Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston.
- c The president issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves. – What was unusual about it was that there had been other Acts before which granted freedom to slaves under certain circumstances or in certain areas (6 Aug 1861, 16 April 1862, 19 June 1862, 22 September 1862).
- 3 a Interesting details: the fact that Booth managed to escape in spite of a broken leg; the fact that it was Secretary of State Seward who was to conduct the purchase of Alaska from Russia later.
- b Possible associations:  
1<sup>st</sup> picture: John F. Kennedy/Ronald Reagan/Pope John Paul II;  
2<sup>nd</sup> picture: Princess Diana's funeral
- 4&5 The German translation of Lincoln's speech is of questionable quality. It is often too far away from the original.
- 6 "All persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free" – only slaves in rebel states are free.
- 7 "This sculpture just showed how blacks should be grateful that America liberated them." – Blacks were disappointed with it and also with the Exhibition.

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<http://www.peter-ringeisen.de/downloads>

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