

Lesson Plan

A  
*Valentine*  
FOR  
America



A Lesson Plan  
*Valentine* FOR  
America



## Table of Contents

Overview.....	3
Book Description.....	4
Lesson Plan.....	5-18
Declaration of Independence-Quote.....	7
Abraham Lincoln Images .....	9-10
13th Amendment-Quote .....	11
JFK Images & Quote.....	14-15
Hearts worksheet “I will give my country..	18
Art-Crafts-Activities .....	19-23
Abe Math Worksheet .....	20
Abe Silhouette Worksheet .....	21
Children Silhouette Art Project .....	22
Sing About America .....	23
Resources.....	24



Lesson Plan

# A Valentine FOR America



## Overview

1. **Title:** A Valentine for America
2. **Purpose:** Even the smallest people in our country can serve others and make a difference for America.
3. **Objectives:** Students will understand what it means to “do for your country”.
4. **Duration:** Up to a half hour.
5. **Grade:** K-6.
6. **Content Area & Core Standards:** Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, Music.
7. **Resources / Materials needed:** Optional supplies for art activities.
8. **Differentiation:** Group and individual activities and assessment.
9. **Assessment:** Teamwork skills in activities, worksheets and art projects
10. **Preparation:** Review lesson and prepare for assessments of your choice.



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# A Valentine FOR America



## Book Description

The historical JFK quote, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country” is used to create the perfect valentine for America. Your students will learn how Abraham Lincoln united our country when her heart was broken.



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# A Valentine FOR America



## Lesson



Did you know **in the year 1860** America had a broken heart?

**THERE** once was an American President who **saved** America from a broken heart. **HER** heart was torn in 2 pieces.

**THE** United States of America had become the divided states of America. **THE** Civil War was fought between the **northern and southern states**. **BOTH** sides were fighting for **different reasons**.

**The South**  
fought for  
the freedom  
to own  
slaves.



**The North**  
fought for the  
freedom of **ALL**  
people, including  
over 2 million  
slaves.



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# A Valentine FOR America



**PRESIDENT LINCOLN** wanted **ALL American's** to  
**REMEMBER** our **Declaration of Independence** said,

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".*

*-Declaration of Independence*

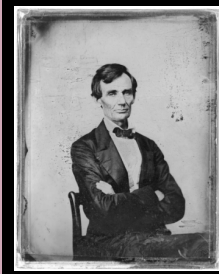
See Page 7



*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”.*

*-Declaration of Independence*

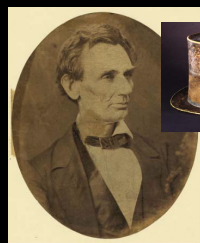
# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



Abraham Lincoln



Mary Todd Lincoln  
(wife of Abraham Lincoln)

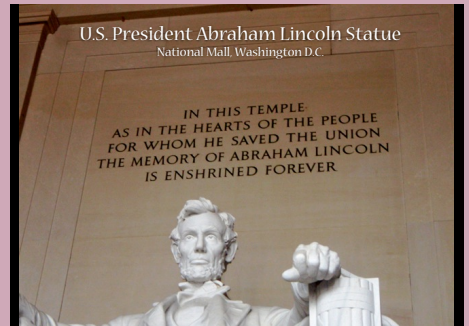


Abraham Lincoln

Left: candidate for US President  
Center: Abe's top hat  
Right: President of the United States of America



ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President U. S.



U.S. President Abraham Lincoln Statue  
National Mall, Washington D.C.

See page 9

See page 9

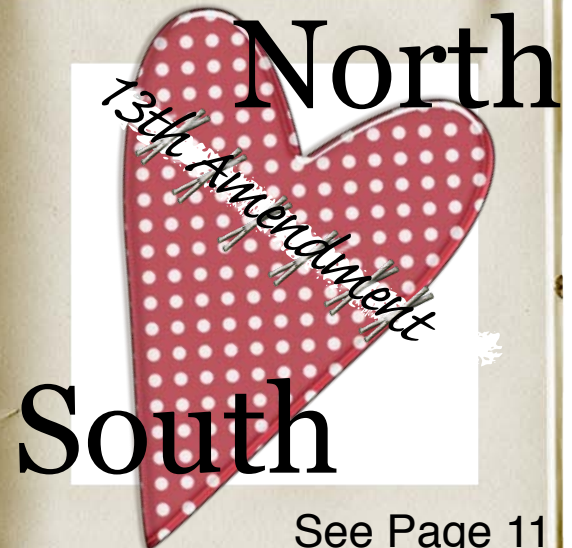
See page 10

President Abraham Lincoln **united America in freedom** when he *mended America's broken heart*

**December 6, 1865** with the **13th Amendment** to the constitution stating,

*"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."*

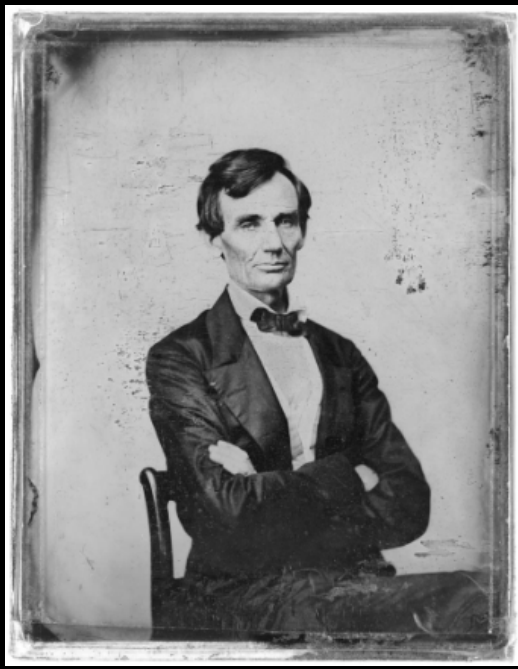
-13th Amendment



See Page 11





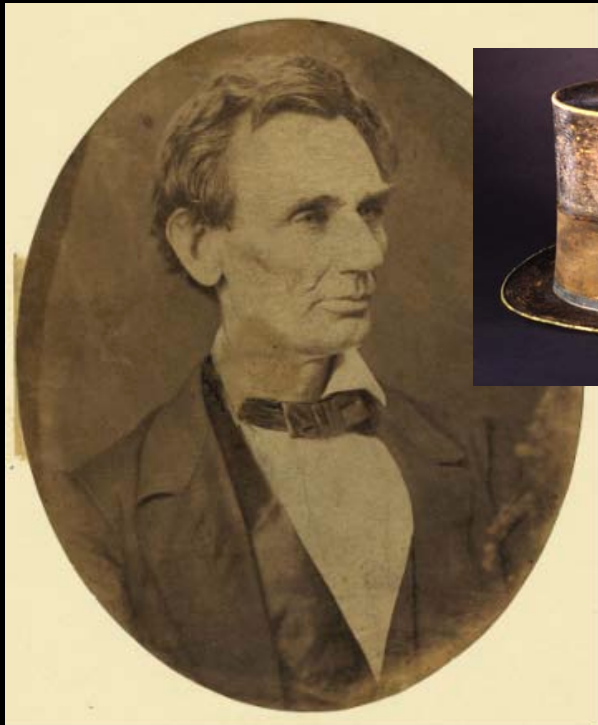


Abraham Lincoln



Mary Todd Lincoln

(wife of Abraham Lincoln)



Abraham Lincoln

Left: candidate for US President

Center: Abe's top hat

Right: President of the United States of America



ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Pres't U. S.

Entered according to Act of Congress, by Alex. Gardner, in the year 1865, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the District of Columbia.

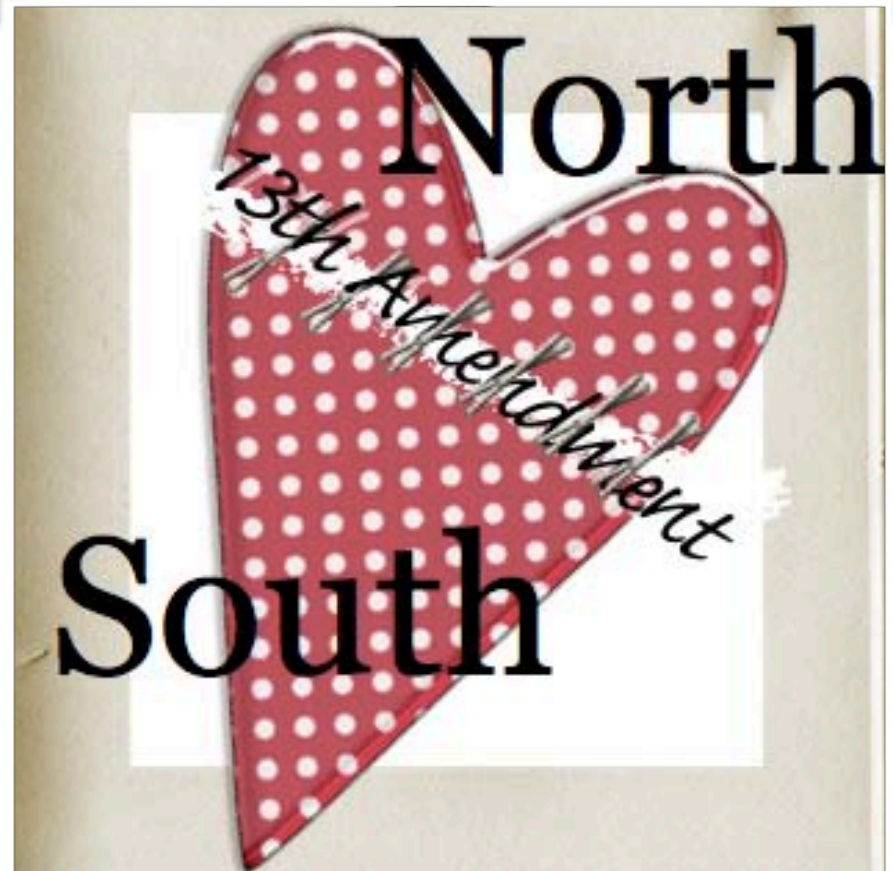
U.S. President Abraham Lincoln Statue  
National Mall, Washington D.C.

IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



*"Neither slavery nor  
involuntary servitude, except  
as a punishment for crime  
whereof the party shall have  
been duly convicted, shall exist  
within the United States, or  
any place subject to their  
jurisdiction."*

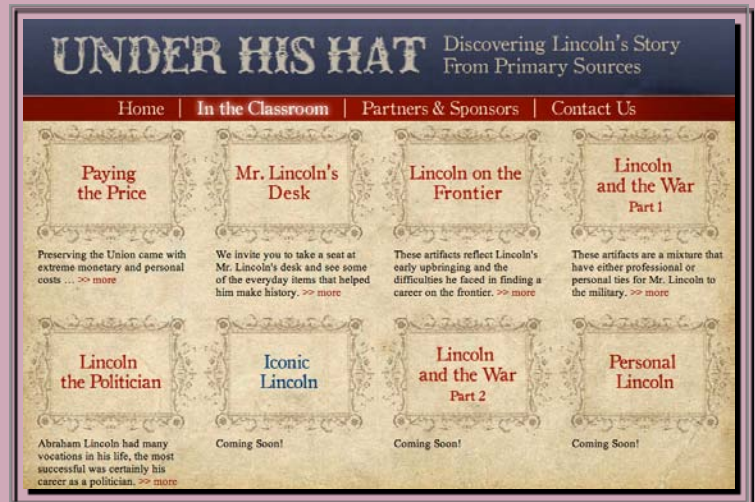
*-13th Amendment*



# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



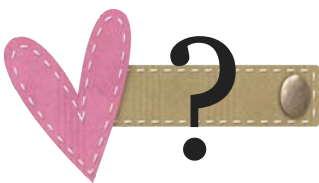
*Teachers Note:*  
You can learn more about Abraham Lincoln with interactive artifacts at the following website:  
[Touch Here to access website.](#)



**PRESIDENT LINCOLN** gave America a very **special valentine** when he recognized the freedoms of **ALL** people.



**If you were going to give America a Valentine what would it be?**



**What would it Say?**

# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



LET students **discuss ideas together.**

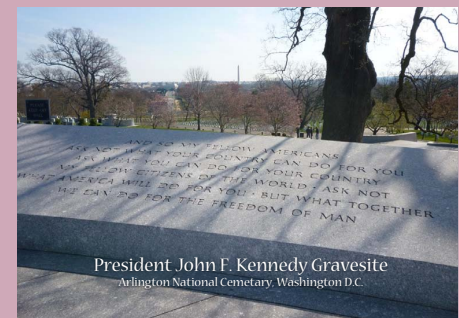
AMERICA'S 35th President was John F. Kennedy and he taught us what the **perfect valentine** would be for America. HE said,



See page 14

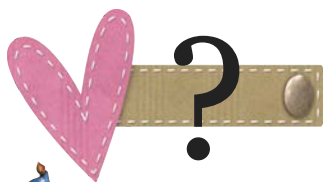


John F. Kennedy  
Left: 35th President of the United States of America  
Right: John F. Kennedy with family in 1962



President John F. Kennedy Gravesite  
Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C.

See page 15



What does it mean to “Ask not what your country can do for you”?

DISCUSS meaning with class



“ASK NOT WHAT YOUR  
COUNTRY CAN DO FOR  
YOU, BUT WHAT YOU  
CAN DO FOR YOUR  
COUNTRY”

-JOHN F. KENNEDY

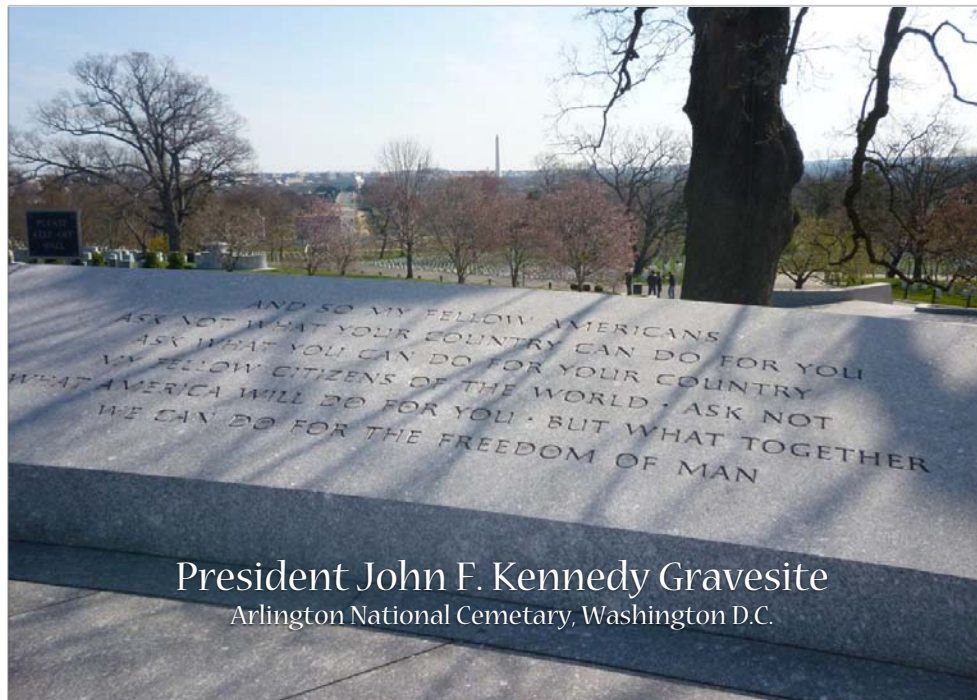




## John F. Kennedy

Left: 35th President of the United States of America

Right: John F. Kennedy with family in 1962



## President John F. Kennedy Gravesite

Arlington National Cemetary, Washington D.C.

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# A Valentine FOR America

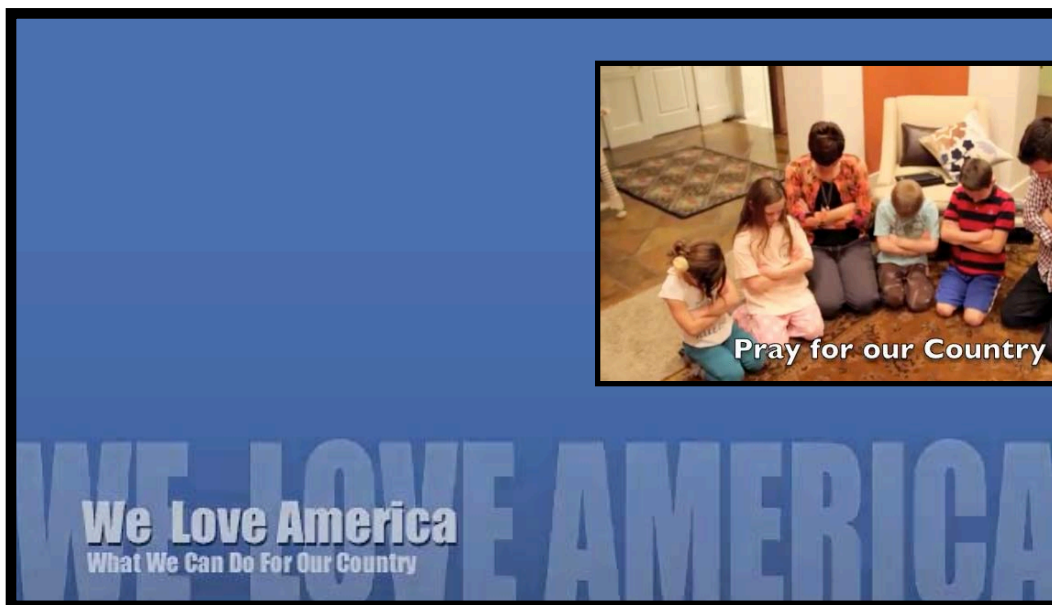


What does it mean when President Kennedy said we should ask “**what you can do for your country**”?

**DISCUSS** meaning **with class**.

**MANY** people ALL around you are **doing important things for our country**.

**SHOW** the following **media clip to illustrate** what **we can do for our country**.



[Click HERE for media clip above.](#)



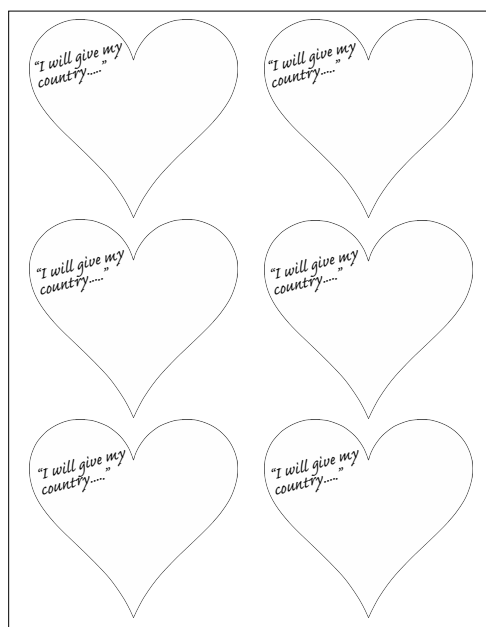
# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



**HAVE** class **stand and recite** JFK's quote **as a class**.

**THIS** is fun to do **snowball style**.

*(Snowball Style directions: print each word on a separate sheet of paper and hand out to 17 individuals/groups. Stand in sequential order, each taking a turn, one word at a time, combine one word at a time with the first group, until you have everyone together repeating the entire quote.)*



See page 18

Click **HERE** for website with **PDF** for Snowball Style activity.

**GIVE** each student **a paper heart** (or have them cut out a paper heart). **INSTRUCT** them to **finish the following sentence:**

*"I will give my country....."*

Click **HERE** for website with **PDF** Heart Worksheet.

# Happy Valentine's Day America! We love you!





# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



## Art-Crafts-Activities

# Abraham Lincoln Projects

## Math Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Draw a top hat on top of Abraham Lincoln's head, then answer the questions below

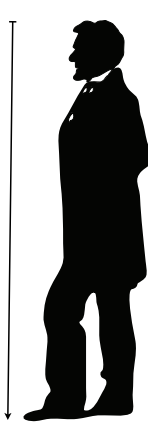
**Abraham Lincoln**  
President Lincoln gave America a very special valentine when he recognized the freedoms of all people.

1. How tall is Abe Lincoln?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How tall are you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is taller, you or Abe?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge question:**  
4. How tall would you be with the stovepipe hat on?  
\_\_\_\_\_



Abraham Lincoln was a 6'4" tall, even taller with his stovepipe hat! **Make a stovepipe hat for your classroom.** Measure the height of your hat together as a class. Use a tape measure to illustrate how tall Abraham Lincoln was. Let students work together in small groups to mark and label individual heights on the white board (stand with back against wall, place book on head, draw line with mark and write name). Let student groups use measuring tapes (so fun!) to calculate height. Have them work to fill out the following worksheet.

**Click [HERE](#) for website to make stovepipe hat.**


See pages 20-21


**Click [HERE](#) for website with PDF printable pages.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Cut out silhouette of Abraham Lincoln and paste silhouette to a piece of black paper. See example below.

Sample 



Abraham Lincoln  
President Lincoln gave America a very special valentine when he recognized the freedoms of all people.

# Art Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Draw a top hat on top of Abraham Lincoln's head, then answer the questions below

# Abraham Lincoln

President Lincoln gave America a very special valentine when he recognized the freedoms of all people.

1. How tall is Abe Lincoln?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How tall are you?

\_\_\_\_\_

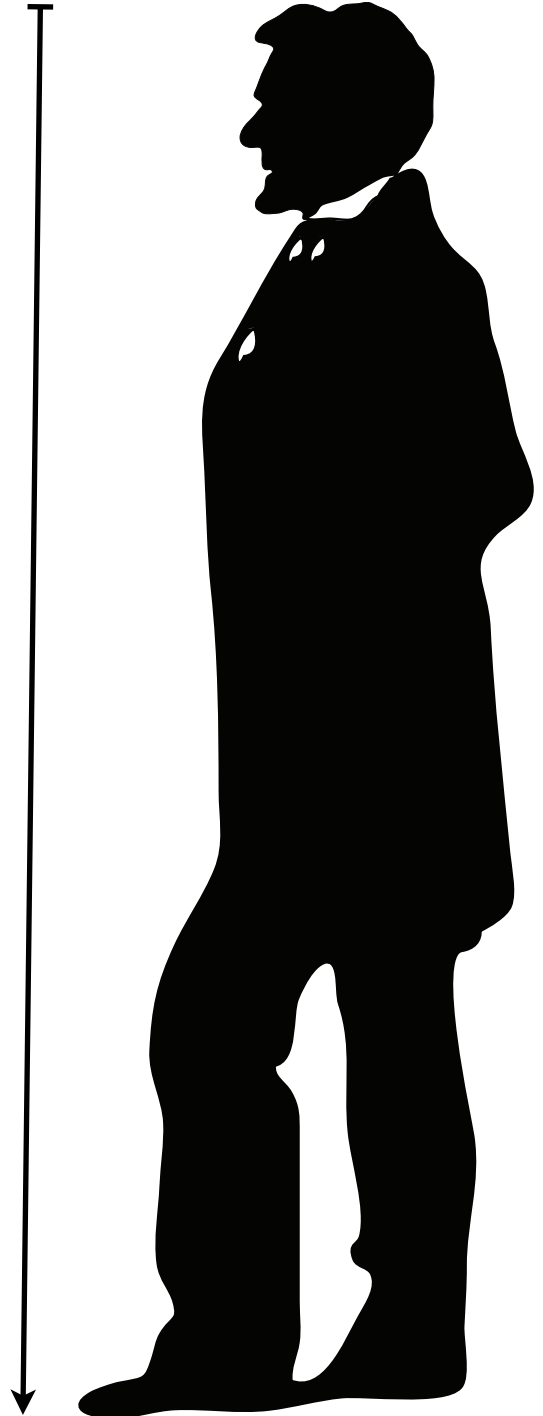
3. Who is taller, you or Abe?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge question:**

4. How tall would you be with the stovepipe hat on?

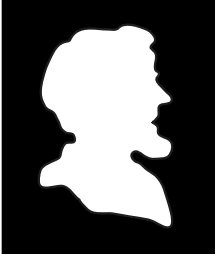
\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Cut out silhouette of Abraham Lincoln and paste silhouette it to a piece of black paper. See example below.

Sample



# Abraham Lincoln

President Lincoln gave America a very special valentine when he recognized the freedoms of all people.

# A Lesson Plan Valentine FOR America



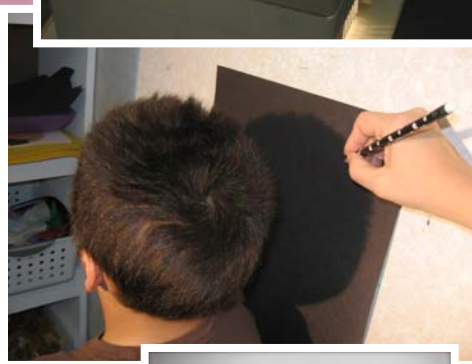
Art-Crafts-Activites

## Children Silhouette Art Project



### Directions:

**1.** Have your model sit sideways on a chair in front of a wall. Then, position the lamp so the light is shining directly on your model. Make sure you can see the shadow of his/her profile on the wall. You may have to fiddle with the distance between the lamp and your model until the shadow looks good. Tape the black construction paper on the wall, so it covers the shadow of your model's head.



**2.** Using a pencil, white chalk or a white crayon, carefully trace around the outline of your model's head. Make sure you don't get in between the model and the light or you won't be able to see the shadow. Don't rush while you do it or it won't come out well.



**3.** After you're done tracing, cut the silhouette out and glue it onto another piece of construction paper.



Lesson Plan

# A Valentine FOR America



Art-Crafts-Activites

## Sing about America

When we sing about America we are giving her a special Valentine.

A soldier named Irving Berlin wrote a

**valentine song for**

# America

named "**God Bless America**".

Learn to sing it as a class with the following video.



[Click HERE for video above.](#)



Lesson Plan

# A Valentine FOR America

## Resources



### Images/Videos/Websites

**Abraham Lincoln "Under His Hat":** <http://www.underhishat.org/intheclassroom.html>

**Abraham Lincoln Images:** <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/slidelinc/index.html>

**Abraham Lincoln's top hat:** <http://americanhistory.si.edu/lincoln/introduction>

**John F. Kennedy:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jfk>

**John F. Kennedy Gravesite:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inaugural\\_address\\_of\\_John\\_F.\\_Kennedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inaugural_address_of_John_F._Kennedy)

**We Love America Video:** Music by Phillip Phillips, "Home" Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHW0d9bfHmk&feature=youtu.be>

**Lesson material:** <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html>

**Prairie Image:** [http://www.ilcp.com/site2011/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/MichaelForsberg\\_208.jpg?cda6c1](http://www.ilcp.com/site2011/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/MichaelForsberg_208.jpg?cda6c1)

**Silhouette Images:** <http://luvprek.blogspot.com/2011/02/easy-silhouettes.html>

**God Bless America Music:** "God Bless America" by Kids Celebrate America Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsMumpiRwNk>

### Lesson Plan

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& designed by Heidi Tribe

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