



Abraham Lincoln:

## Civil War and the abolition of slavery

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809, the child of a poor family in Kentucky. When he was 24 he served in the State Government of Illinois. He denounced slavery, saying it was “founded on both injustice and bad policy.”

In 1860, Lincoln was elected the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, but the South voted against him because they didn’t agree with him on slavery. They needed the slaves to work on their plantation. Without the slaves, the plantation owners could not be so rich.

For this reason, in 1861 the South left the Union and formed a nation called the “Confederate States of America”. The Civil War began. At first it was a war to protect the union of the country

On January 1, 1863 President Lincoln issued the final **Emancipation Proclamation** freeing all slaves in territories held by the Confederate States.. The war now became a war about the abolition of slavery.

Finally in 1865 the Civil War ended. The Confederates under General Lee were defeated. The two commanders Lee and Grant met on April 9 and agreed on the terms to end the war.

On April 13, 1865 Lincoln was shot while he was at the theatre. He died two days later.

At the end of American Civil War slavery was abolished. Legally the slaves were free and equal to White People, but Blacks were excluded from many basic forms of everyday life.

### Answer these questions.

1. When was Abraham Lincoln born?
2. Was his family rich?
3. Why did he denounce slavery?
4. When did he become President?
5. Why was he not popular with people in the South?
6. Why did the Civil War start?
7. What did Lincoln do in the Emancipation Proclamation?
8. Who were the two commanders in the Civil War?
9. Which sides did they represent?
10. Which side won the Civil War?
11. How many years did the Civil War last?
12. What happened on April 13, 1865?
13. At the end of the Civil War was slavery really abolished?