

## Civilisation anglophone | Abraham Lincoln

### Abraham Lincoln – U.S. President [ Short Biography] – Oral Comprehension

He radiated a quality the people liked and respected and that was the quality of being a wise old man. That's one of the things that made him a successful.

President Abraham Lincoln **was born on February 12th 1809**. He spent his first years in **a log cabin in rural Kentucky**. His mother's death **when he was nine years old deeply affected** him and put **more tension** on his already strained relationship with his father. He regarded his father **as lacking ambition, as lazy as anti-intellectual**, all the things that **Lincoln wanted to escape from** what he saw in his father.

A love of knowledge made Lincoln into an **intelligent well-spoken** and **popular young man** as he worked a series of odd jobs in New Salem Illinois. When Lincoln talked, **people listened**, whether that was around **pot-bellied stove [poêle à bois]**, at store, in storefronts, at court houses. After a term in the Illinois State Legislature, Lincoln decided **to teach himself law**. He passed the bar **in 1837** and **moved to Springfield** where he met Mary Todd. Anybody who was watching what was going on in Springfield in those years knew that this fellow was that this was a fellow who was gonna make a name for himself in some way, and Mary **was attracted by that**.

Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd **were married on November** 4th 1842. Lincoln spent his next years practicing law but in 1858 **he decided to challenge Stephen Douglas** for his seat in the US Senate. Though Lincoln lost the election he got the attention of **National Republican Party leaders** and won the party's nomination **for president** in 1860. In the National race he would again face Stephen Douglas.

Stephen Douglas is saying **that democracy is compatible with slavery**. Lincoln has to undo that idea or he won't be able successfully to challenge slavery.

**Lincoln won the election** but his views on slavery did not make him a welcomed leader **in the south**. By his inauguration in March 1861, **seven southern states** had seceded **from the Union**. On April 12 1861 the Confederacy fired on Fort Sumter and **began America's most deadly war**.

At first Lincoln made the war about maintaining the Union so as not to offend the loyal slave states. But eventually he shifted the cause **to abolishing slavery** and on January 1st 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued **the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery was over**.

Lincoln easily won the election in 1864 and it would only be a few more months before Confederate General Robert E Lee **would surrender**. With the war over, Lincoln could look forward to better times. Reconstruction had already begun, but there were those that didn't readily accept **the outcome of the war**. John Wilkes Booth believed that Abraham Lincoln was **truly an evil man** and Booth believed that by killing him **he would be doing a service to both his nation and to his race**.

On April 14th 1865 John Wilkes Booth **shot the president** at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. Lincoln was taken across the street to a boarding house where **he died nine hours later**. The nation had lost **a great leader at a time they needed him most. [...]**