



Lincoln Memorial Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

Honest Abe hardly needs an introduction. The president who held the union together and brought slavery to an end is revered and honored by all. But what do you know about his grand memorial in our nation's capital? And what do you think Lincoln could have accomplished had he not been assassinated? In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Lincoln accomplished much during his time in office. Watch this video to learn more about his life.
WATCH: <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a42-d3cb-a96c-7b4f37a90000>

1. What legacy did Lincoln leave behind after his death?

Answer: He freed the slaves in the South with the Emancipation Proclamation and restored the Union after the Civil War.



Learn more about the history and significance of the Lincoln Memorial.
READ: <https://www.nps.gov/linc/learn/historyculture/statue.htm>

2. Who sculpted the statue of Lincoln and why do some say his likeness is so accurate?

Answer: The statue was carved by the Piccirilli brothers under the supervision of the sculptor, Daniel Chester French. Daniel Chester French devoted several years to researching Abraham Lincoln and studying photographs of him.

3. How did the sculptors portray both strength and compassion in the statue of Lincoln?

Answer: French positioned Lincoln's hands in a manner that displayed his two leading qualities. One of the president's hands is clenched, representing his strength and determination to see the war through to a successful conclusion. The other hand is a more open, slightly more relaxed hand representing his compassionate, warm nature.



Read this article to find out more about the design of the Lincoln Memorial.
READ: <https://www.nps.gov/linc/learn/historyculture/memorial-features.htm>

4. Describe the memorial.

Answer: The Lincoln Memorial is 19 feet tall and 19 feet wide. Lincoln is sitting in a chair. The memorial represents Lincoln and what he accomplished. There are various quotes and speeches of Lincoln engraved on the walls.

5. What do the 36 columns around the Lincoln Memorial represent?

Answer: They represent the states in the United States at the time of his death.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Even though Abraham Lincoln was not one of our country's Founding Fathers, why do you think we erected a memorial to honor him?

Answers will vary.

2. Speculate what President Lincoln might have accomplished had he lived long enough to complete his presidency.

Answers will vary.

3. In the south chamber of the memorial is the Gettysburg Address. Research the speech and summarize what Lincoln said in reference to what was happening at the time.

Answers will vary.