

## Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He did not have a chance to go to school for long, but he loved to read books. As he grew up, he worked in a store and then went on to study law and become a lawyer. He moved to Springfield, Illinois, while he was practicing law. Later, he ran for Congress. He had a debate against Stephen A. Douglas, the man who was running against him. Lincoln felt slavery should be stopped, but Douglas felt the people should vote on whether or not there should be slavery. Even though Lincoln lost the election, he became very well known.

In 1860, Lincoln ran for president and won. He became the sixteenth President of the United States. Lincoln loved animals. He helped find homes for orphaned kittens, had a favorite dog and a favorite horse, and his sons even had pet goats and a pet turkey.

After he became president, many Southern states broke away from the United States and formed their own country. When that happened, the Civil War started. Lincoln said slaves in states that had broken away from the United States (also called the Union) were free. He gave a speech in Pennsylvania, at a place called Gettysburg, where a great battle had taken place. This famous speech is known as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Lincoln ran for president again in 1864, and won.

The Union was winning the war. In 1865, General Lee, who led many of the troops from the Southern states that had left the Union, surrendered to General Grant. The surrender happened at the home of Wilmer McLean in a small town called Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The Civil War ended very soon after that. The soldiers who had been fighting against the Union were given passes called parole passes to help them get back home after the surrender. A few days after the surrender, Lincoln and his wife went to see a play. He was shot by an actor named John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln died the next day and was buried in Springfield, Illinois.





