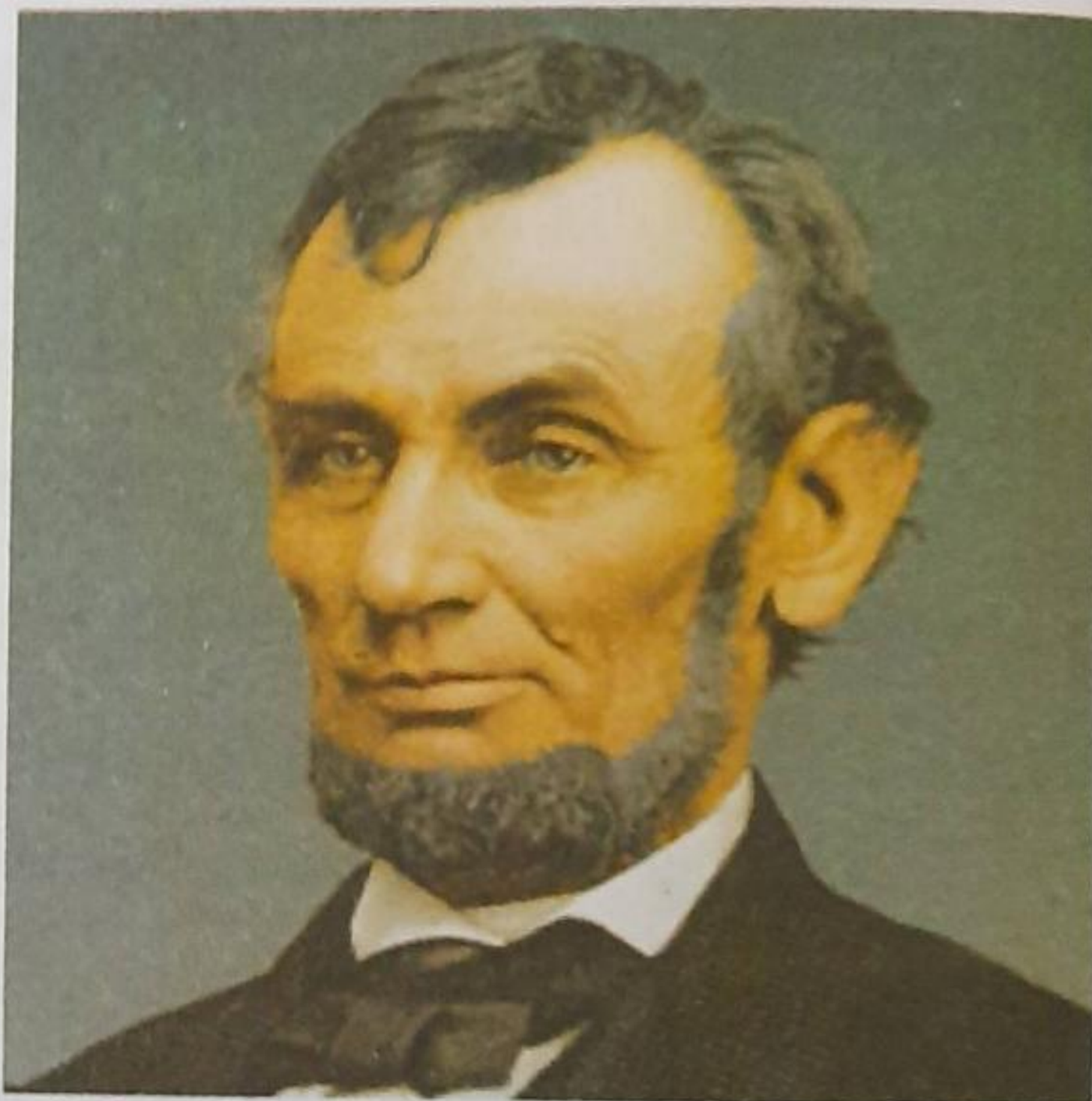


# The 16th President of the USA—Abraham Lincoln

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**Abraham Lincoln** is regarded as one of America's greatest heroes due to both his contribution to the nation and his *unique appeal*. His is a remarkable story of the rise from simple beginning to achieve the highest office in the land. Lincoln's distinctive personality, humane quality and historical role as the saviour of the Union and *emancipator of slaves* creates an enduring legacy. His ideas of democracy is worth for all nations to achieve.



Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809 to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln in a one-room log cabin on the Sinking Spring Farm in **Kentucky**, Virginia. His father was a strong, determined and well-respected in the community. When he was young, at an early age of 9, his mother died. He was devastated. He grew alienated from his father. His father remarried **Sarah Bush Johnston**, a widow with three children of her own. However, Abraham bonded nicely with her. She encouraged Abraham to read. It was while growing into manhood that he received formal education. Reading material was in short supply. He would walk for miles in wilderness to borrow a book. He read the family Bible and other popular books like **Robinson Crusoe, Aesop's Fables and Pilgrim's Progress**.

When he was 21 years old, his father sent him (and his friend) on a journey to a town called New Orleans, which was far from his home in Indiana. They had many adventures



## Know This

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. He preserved the Union during the American Civil War and brought about the emancipation of slaves. Lincoln was also an accomplished wrestler. He was defeated only once in about 300 matches and is enshrined in the Wrestling Hall of Fame.

together. One sight, however, disturbed him a lot when he watched the sale of a Black girl in a slave market. The sight made Lincoln very sad. He thought to himself and said that if he ever could, he would bring an end to slavery! (3) I-6

### Slavery in the Southern States

This was the first time that Abraham came to be aware of the existence of slavery and the miserable condition of slaves in the southern states of USA. As he toured the cotton plantations, he saw the slaves working and he spoke to them. He found that only a few were treated properly by their owners but most of them were treated very cruelly. Seeing their sad condition, he decided that he would definitely do something for them in the days to come.

### Career as a Lawyer

In March 1830, the family migrated to Illinois. However, (5) Lincoln decided to go and work in New Orleans. He tried a number of different jobs but finally took up law as his career. (5) Although he had never been to school, he had read a lot of books. In 1837, he passed the law examination. Lincoln had the qualities of being a good lawyer because he could **speak and argue logically and well**. People also saw him to be very just and honest. He earned the nickname '**Honest Abe**'.

**A story goes like this:** One day when Lincoln was sitting in his office, a jailer of a local jail came to him and said that there was a murderer who had been calling for Lincoln. His trial was coming next week. He had been screaming 'I want Abe Lincoln'.

Lincoln immediately went to the 'cell' where he was. The man introduced himself as Dave Jackson. They had lived together in Indiana. Lincoln recognised him. Dave had been put behind bars for murdering his brother. Dave said he was innocent and Lincoln, knowing him, believed him.





After a week, when the trial began, through his speeches and logical skills, Lincoln freed his friend.

Dave after his release came to Lincoln and said, 'I owe you a thousand thanks, but I'm still in trouble.' When asked why, he replied, 'I do not have any money to pay your fee.' Lincoln replied to this: 'When I see you and your family so happy, I don't need any fee.'

This story goes on to prove what a personality Lincoln was as a human being, before being the leader of his people.

When the **Black Hawk War** broke out in 1832 between the United States and Native Americans, the volunteers in the area elected Lincoln to be their captain. After the War, Abraham Lincoln began his political career and was elected to the Illinois State Legislature in 1834. After being admitted to the bar in 1837, he moved to Springfield, Illinois and began to practise in the John T. Stuart law firm.



## The 16th President of the USA - Abraham Lincoln

☑ Answer the following questions :-

1. Who is regarded as the greatest President of the USA and why?
2. When and where was Abraham Lincoln born? Which incident caused Lincoln to devastate at an early age? What was the name of Lincoln's step-mother?
3. What books did Lincoln read when he was growing up? Which incident disturbed him a lot during his journey to New Orleans, at the age of 21?
4. What was Lincoln's experience regarding slavery?
5. Which career did Lincoln decide to take up?
6. In which year did Lincoln pass the Law Exam? What qualities of a good lawyer did Lincoln have? Which nickname did Lincoln earn as a lawyer?
7. In which year did the Black Hawk War break out? Who were involved in the war? Whom did the volunteers elect as their captain? What changes did arrive in Lincoln's life after the Black Hawk War.