



One Brush Stroke

Abraham Lincoln: A Portrait of a Hero



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The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Even after so much time, Abraham Lincoln is still ranked among the most admired and respected presidents. One Brush Stroke is a program that strives to bring to your community/school/classroom a shared sense of commitment to remembering Lincoln. One Brush Stroke encourages every participant to contribute one brush stroke of paint to a portrait of Lincoln.

The finished painting will represent a collective effort and shared appreciation for the enduring legacy of the "peoples' president."

Objectives

- To learn about Abraham Lincoln by creating a collaborative portrait of him.
- To understand how art can depict history in a whole new way.
- To emphasize team-building and cooperation.

Lesson Plan

One Brush Stroke

Visual Arts and
History

Suggested Grade
Level: K-12

Estimated Time:
three to four
class periods

Materials (Examples)

Grades K-5

Cold-pressed illustration board (16 ply) 20" x 30"

Tempera or tempera cakes paints



For very young student artists, finger painting might be a great way to do this project. I paint most of my Lincoln portraits using my hands.



Grades 5-12

Stretched canvas 24" x 36"

Acrylic Paints



Activity

One Brush Stroke is a project that encourages every participant to contribute one brush stroke of paint to the portrait of Lincoln. Find the black-line template of President Lincoln's face. This sketch is based on one of Lincoln's most iconic

photographs taken by Alexander Gardner on November 8, 1863, just 11 days before Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address.



The size of this template is 8 1/2" x 11". Project this image onto the surface you've chosen to create the portrait. You may have to create a transparency from the template depending on projector. Or if you draw well, sketch the likeness directly onto the surface. You can sketch it with black paint or pencil.

As the "art director" on this project, you want to control the overall look and feel of the painting. To begin, pick and create the color palette. If you're not an artist and you're unsure about creating a palette, there are great resources online or books that can help you. (See Resources.)



There are two ways you can approach this portrait. Your class can paint a traditional portrait, showing Lincoln's dark hair, natural skin tone, and gray eyes. That's one good approach. Another approach is the way I most often choose to paint Lincoln. I like to bring color to history, to Lincoln's portrait. I like to make the portraits artistically interesting. I think this is a good way to go because it gives you flexibility.

After you are all set up, have a brush or brushes at the ready and have each student add paint to the portrait. You can art direct as much or as little as you like to the emerging portrait.

After everyone has had a turn, if the painting isn't finished or look as good as you had hoped, you can finish it yourself or ask one of you more artistic students to finish it. But emphasize that you don't want the entire character of the painting diminished.

You'll find that your students will have a lot of fun with this project, and hopefully you can inject interesting Lincoln anecdotes during the process.

Painting Resources

Online

http://www.expertvillage.com/video/6894_paint-with-acrylics-color-palette.htm

Expert: Sandra Scheetz Wise is an acrylic artist in Orlando, Florida. Her realistic drawings and sculptures have won prizes from childhood through to the present. Her current work speaks to feelings rarely allowed expression in our buttoned-down culture, with a unique and unexpected take on their subject matter.

http://painting.about.com/cs/acrylics/a/acrylicclass1_2.htm

Acrylic Painting - - Getting Started

<http://painting.about.com/cs/acrylics/a/paletteacrylic.htm>

Acrylic Painting: Basic Color Palette

What colors do you need to start painting with acrylics?

Books

How To Paint: A Complete Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners Covering Watercolors, Acrylics and Oils

by [Angela Gair](#) (Author), [Ian Sidaway](#) (Author)

Beginners who want to master the basics of watercolors, acrylics, and oils will find more than 350 color photos to guide them, along with easy-to-follow instructions. More experienced painters can hone their skills using detailed studies of a range of techniques. Each section offers practical information on materials and equipment, a gallery of professional work to inspire creativity, and projects that cover landscapes, still lifes, people, flowers, animals, and buildings

Art Class: A Complete Guide to Painting

by [Simon Jennings](#) (Author), [Sally Bulgin](#) (Author)

From the team behind Chronicle Books' best-selling art reference book *Artist's Manual* comes the ultimate painting compendium, *Art Class*. The perfect complement to its predecessor, *Art Class* is filled with page after page of beautiful paintings and expert teaching. It is packed with ideas and inspirations, tools and techniques, photos and illustrations, as well as detailed instructions on working with media ranging from watercolor to acrylic to oil. With an entire section devoted to step-by-step demonstrations by renowned artists--where they reveal their personal secrets, tips, and methods--*Art Class* is like having an instructor guiding each and every brush stroke. Learn how to paint an eye or a portrait, a tree or an entire landscape, by following the many artist-led descriptions and full-page color spreads that illustrate the most basic to the most advanced painting techniques. Whether they work in gouache or watercolor, oil or pastel, aspiring or seasoned artists will find that *Art Class* offers everything they need to create successful paintings. With 500 color photographs and featured works of art, a visual glossary of the language and mechanics behind painting, and an extensive resource listing, *Art Class* is the definitive studio companion for every painter.

Abraham Lincoln Resources

Websites

1

[A House Divided](#)

This multimedia exhibit explores American society before, during, and after the Civil War. Based on the book *A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln* by Eric Foner and Olivia Mahoney.

2

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

The White House Web site offers a brief sketch of the 16th president of the United States, the man who issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Includes portrait and link to Mary Todd Lincoln.

3

[Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS Home Page](#)

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site preserves the one-room log cabin where the 16th president of the United States was born in 1809. Web site includes sight-seeing information, maps, and pictures.

4

[Abraham Lincoln Newspaper Articles Archive](#)

Search or browse thousands of newspaper articles (in PDF format) relating to Abraham Lincoln, from 1860 to the present. From Heritage Microfilm, Inc., an archival microfilm company.

5

[Abraham Lincoln Online](#)

This Web site provides an extensive and easy-to-use directory of the many Internet resources related to Abraham

Lincoln, including links to speeches and writings. Maintained by Rhonda Sneller, a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

6

[American Experience: The Time of the Lincolns](#)

This is the companion site to the PBS film Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided. Topics covered include the Civil War, slavery and freedom, politics of the time, and the rights of women.

7

[American President: An Online Reference Resource](#)

This history of the U.S. Presidency resource features biographical essays about each President, information on the First Ladies and cabinet officials, speeches, and more. From the Univ. of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs.

8

[American Presidents: Life Portraits - Abraham Lincoln](#)

From the Web companion to C-SPAN's TV series on U.S. presidents, the section on Abraham Lincoln offers life facts, videos, interviews with historians, one of his letters, bibliography, and more.

9

[American Rhetoric: The Power of Oratory in the United States](#)

Search a directory of over 5,000 speeches and debates. Includes a collection of the "Top 100" American speeches of the 20th century, sound files, and exercises. Compiled by an assistant professor of speech communication, University of Texas at Tyler.

10

[Explore DC: US Presidents](#)

WETA, a Washington public broadcasting station, offers profiles of all U.S. presidents and first ladies. Included are portraits, quotes, facts and figures, bibliographies, and a section on presidential homes and memorials in and around Washington.

11

[EyeWitness To The American Civil War](#)

Browse through first-person accounts of the crucial and dramatic events of the American Civil War and Lincoln's presidency. From Ibis Communications, a publisher of educational programming. Includes references and illustrations.

12

[Ford's Theatre National Historic Site](#)

The Ford's Theatre National Historic Site preserves the place where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by actor and conspirator John Wilkes Booth. Web site contains pictures and information on Lincoln and Booth.

13

[Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States.](#)

This site contains the texts of each U.S. president's inaugural address.

14

[IPL POTUS - Presidents of the United States](#)

In this resource from Internet Public Library you will find background information, election results, cabinet members, presidency highlights, and odd facts on each of the presidents.

15

[Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Home Page](#)

On this southern Indiana farm, Abraham Lincoln spent fourteen of the most formative years of his life and grew from youth into manhood. His mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is buried here. Web site provides photos and detailed sight-seeing information.

16

[Lincoln Memorial Homepage](#)

This National Park Service Web site provides facts and photos related to the Lincoln Memorial and Lincoln.

17

[Lincoln Papers: Mr. Lincoln's Virtual Library](#)

The Library of Congress offers photos of Lincoln, facsimiles of his letters and other documents, and special presentations on the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's assassination.

18

[Lincoln's First Inaugural Address \(Top Treasure\): American Treasures of the Library of Congress](#)

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln made his first inaugural address. In this address, Lincoln focused on shoring up his support in the North without further alienating the South, where he was not popular. From Library of Congress

19

[Meet Amazing Americans - U.S. Presidents - Abraham Lincoln](#)

Learn some lesser-known facts about the 16th U.S. president (such as his sense of humor). Part of America's Story--a Library of Congress Web site for kids.

20

[Mr. President](#)

Find a gallery of presidents of the United States. Each portrait accompanies a quote and notable accomplishments of that president. Maintained by the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

21

[Portraits of the Presidents from the National Portrait Gallery](#)

The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., presents portraits of every American president with brief descriptions. Click on the images to enlarge them.

22

[The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum](#)

Take a virtual tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill.

23

[THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT](#)

Learn about many aspects of the American presidency from this site, which is based on ten PBS television episodes.

24

[The Avalon Project: First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln](#)

Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address was given March 4, 1861. Read it at this site from the Avalon Project at Yale Law School.

25

[The Avalon Project: Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln](#)

Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address was given March 4, 1865. Read it at this site from the Avalon Project at Yale Law School.

26

[The Gettysburg Address \(Library of Congress Exhibition\)](#)

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Civil War Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA. The Library of Congress has two of the five known manuscript copies of the address. View these at this site.

27

[The History Place Presents Abraham Lincoln](#)

The History Place Web site presents a detailed time line of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Includes photos and many links to supplement the biographical information.

28

[The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858](#)

See this page for a map of where the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates took place and the text of what was said by each speaker. On the Web site of the National Park Service.

29

[Welcome to Presidential Museums.Com](#)

The Presidential Museum Foundation offers profiles and bibliographies for all U.S. presidents and even provides information on presidential pets. The "Location" section lists all museums/historic sites related to each president, with brief descriptions.

Books

Alter, Judy. Abraham Lincoln. Enslow, 2002.

Armstrong, Jennifer. A Three-Minute Speech: Lincoln's Remarks at Gettysburg. Simon & Schuster, 2003.

Ashabranner, Brent K. No Better Hope: What the Lincoln Memorial Means to America. Twenty-First Century, 2001.

Bowler, Sarah. Abraham Lincoln: Our Sixteenth President. Child's World, 2002.

Boritt, Gabor. The Gettysburg Gospel. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

Burchard, Peter. Lincoln and Slavery. Simon, 1999.

Cohn, Amy L., and Schmidt, Suzy. Abraham Lincoln. Scholastic, 2001.

Collier, James Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln You Never Knew. Scholastic, 2004.

Deady, Kathleen W. The Lincoln Memorial (National Landmarks Series). Coughlan, 2002.

Feinberg, Barbara Silberdick. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: Four Score and More. Twenty-First Century, 2000.

Gilmore, Frederic. The Lincoln Memorial: A Great President Remembered. Child's World, 2000.

Goldstein, Ernest. The Statue: Abraham Lincoln: A Masterpiece by Daniel Chester French (Art beyond Borders Series). Lerner, 1997.

Holford, David M. Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation (In American History Series). Enslow, 2002.

Holzer, Harold, comp. and ed. Abraham Lincoln the Writer: A Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters. Boyds Mills, 2000.

Kent, Deborah. The Lincoln Memorial (Cornerstones of Freedom Series). Scholastic, 1996.

Kops, Deborah. Abraham Lincoln: Holding the Union Together. Gale Group, 2001.

Marrin, Albert. Commander in Chief: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Penguin Putnam, 1997.

Otfinoski, Steven. Abraham Lincoln (Encyclopedia of Presidents, Second Series). Scholastic, 2004.

Somerlott, Robert. The Lincoln Assassination (In American History Series). Enslow, 1998.

Sullivan, George E. Picturing Lincoln: Famous Photographs That Popularized the President. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Thomas, Christopher A. The Lincoln Memorial and American Life. Princeton University Press, 2002.

Turner, Ann Warren. Abe Lincoln Remembers. HarperCollins, 2000.

Zeinert, Karen. The Lincoln Murder Plot. Shoe String/Linnet, 1999.



Visual Arts Standards

Content Standard 1

Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

Achievement Standard

Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard 4

Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Achievement Standard

Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures

Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts

Students analyze, describe, and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas, and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art

Content Standard 5

Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

Achievement Standard

Students compare multiple purposes for creating works of art

Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings in specific artworks through cultural and aesthetic inquiry

Students describe and compare a variety of individual responses to their own artworks and to artworks from various eras and cultures

Content Standard 6

Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

Achievement Standard

Students compare the characteristics of works in two or more art forms that share similar subject matter, historical periods, or cultural context

Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts