

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States of America (1860-1865)

Born on February 1802

Death on April 1865

Key question : To what extent Abraham Lincoln had an impact on US politics?

I. Lincoln, a major politician

A. The start of his career

- Lincoln is a self-taught provincial lawyer who moved to Springfield in 1837 to begin practicing his profession
- He was re-elected four times to the Illinois House of Representatives
- Then aspired to become the Illinois representative in the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.
- Back in Springfield, he focused on his work as a lawyer and became famous, earning a lot of clients in Chicago
- Lincoln's reputation as a brilliant, eloquent, and honest man

B. The ambiguous political position on slavery

- Abraham Lincoln was elected in the United States Congress.
- His anti-slavery stance was already apparent, but he didn't show himself in favor of giving the right to vote to the black population
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 put Lincoln back in the political spotlight
- Lincoln's thought was to stop the spread of slavery rather than abolish it outright
- In November 1860 Lincoln was elected President of the United States.
- In December 1860, the Southern states seceded, fearing the emancipation of the abolition of slavery

II. Lincoln or the rise of an anchor point

A. The turning point of the American Civil War

- Lincoln's main aim, as commander-in-chief of the army until 1864, was to re-establish the unity of the country
- On September 22th 1862, Lincoln issued an Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all black slaves in the States free
- This transformed the war aims into a fight against slavery
- Known as the great emancipator, Lincoln was a complex figure who struggled with his own point of view on race
- His point of view evolved over time and during his presidency, as the Civil War progressed

B. The legacy

- He was re-elected President in November 1864, but on April 14th 1865 he was assassinated by a Confederate sympathizer
- Lincoln is one of the most admired presidents in the history of the United States
- his name was given to the capital of the state of Nebraska, a monument (the Lincoln Memorial) is erected in his honor
- Her portrait is carved on Mount Rushmore, and the important places in his life have been turned into museums.
- Abraham Lincoln's assassination prevented his contemporaries from criticizing his actions.

