

**\*\*Please note, these scripts were written to be put in a teleprompter and as such they are all right-aligned without indentations\*\***

# Kindergarten Level

## VIDEO 1

Hi and welcome to History!

Today, we are going to talk about the Civil War and learn what caused it.

The Civil War was a big fight between two groups of people that lived in the United States.

A long time ago, there were 22 states in the United States of America. In half of the states, people had slaves. These were called slave states.

Do you know what a slave is?

(Pause)

Slaves were kind of like workers, but they didn't get paid. They also didn't get to make their own choices. It was not nice.

In the other half of the states, people didn't want to have slaves. These were called free states.

Missouri wanted to join the United States. But this was a problem! Missouri had slaves.

If Missouri joined the United States, there would be more slave states than free states. The country would be uneven, just like these two piles of blocks.

There were lots of people that were angry. They thought slavery was *very* mean. They were scared there would be too many slave states. The slave states would be able to boss around the whole country.

This was a big problem! What do you think they should have done?

(Pause)

Luckily, there was another state, Maine, that also wanted to join the United States. Missouri joined as a slave state, and Maine joined as a free state.

Can you see how these two groups of people were starting to get mad at each other?

There was a man that lived in a free state that hated slavery. His name was Abraham Lincoln. He was a very good and nice man.

A couple of years after this problem with Missouri, Abraham Lincoln was picked to become the next president.

After he was picked, but before he started his new job, seven states left the United States. They didn't want Lincoln to be their president. They were afraid he would take away their slaves.

They made their own country.

After Lincoln started his new job as the president, four more states left the United States. They joined this new country.

Now we have two countries, but why did they start fighting?

Well, the government of the United States had built buildings in some of these states. The people that lived in this new country thought that they should own these buildings because they were on their land.

They asked President Lincoln to give them one of these buildings. President Lincoln said no.

This new country decided to attack and try to take control. This started the big fight!

After Abraham Lincoln became president, lots of people in the United States became very angry with him. Why?

(Pause)

Because he hadn't changed the laws that let people own slaves.

He said he didn't like people owning slaves. But they thought he was lying because he didn't change the laws.

Why didn't he change the laws?

Abraham Lincoln wasn't a king, and he had rules to follow. He didn't think he had the power to change the laws.

This was a big problem. He thought about this problem every day!

Finally, he found a way! He made a big speech. In this speech, he said that all the slaves in the new country could go free!

Once the slaves were freed, many of them helped the United States in the fight.

Abraham Lincoln was the president of the United States. Soon after he became President, the Civil War began.

### **VIDEO 2 - Assignment 1**

Today, we learned about the Civil War, a big fight between two groups of people.

Before the big fight, some of the countries left the United States and started their own country.

Now we are going to color a map to see which states left.

Ask your mom or dad to print out this map for you.

**(Pause)**

Okay, now pick a color to use for the free states. I chose blue, but you can use any color you want.

Now color in the states that are blue on my map.

Now pick a color to use for the slave states. I chose purple, but you can use any color you want.

Now color in the states that are purple on my map.

Great job!

Now show someone your map!

### **VIDEO 3 - Assignment 2**

Today, we learned about President Abraham Lincoln.

He was a very nice man who had a very important job. He made a law that ended slavery in the United States.

Now we are going to color a picture of him.

Ask your mom or dad to print out this picture.

This picture shows Abraham Lincoln talking to some soldiers. Abraham Lincoln has a very tall hat.

Color the soldiers' uniforms blue. You can choose the colors for the rest of the picture.

When you finish coloring, show your picture to someone.

## 2nd Grade Level

### VIDEO 1

Hi and welcome to History!

Today, we are going to talk about Abraham Lincoln and the events leading up to the Civil War.

It's called the Civil War because it was a fight between two parts of the same country. The two sides were the North and the South.

What could possibly cause the people of a nation to fight against each other?

(Pause)

To help us understand what happened, we are going to make a timeline.

The first event on our timeline happened in 1820! Let's put this on the far-left side of our timeline. Now let's learn about the Missouri Compromise!

Back in 1819, Missouri was a territory and wanted to become a state. At that time, the United States of America, sometimes referred to as "the Union," was made of 22 states.

Half of the states were free states, meaning slavery was illegal. The other half were slave states where slavery was allowed. People in Missouri were practicing slavery. So, if Missouri joined the Union, there would be more slave states than free states. This caused a problem.

It made people who thought slavery was wrong upset because they did not want pro-slavery people to have more power in the government.

What do you think they should have done to solve this problem?

(Pause)

Luckily, there was another state, Maine, that also wanted to join the Union. Missouri joined the Union as a slave state, and Maine joined as a free state. That kept everything even. This agreement was called the Missouri Compromise.

As part of the Missouri Compromise, a line was drawn on the map. Let's look at the map. Do you see the green line? —

This line was made to prevent the Missouri issue from happening again. It was decided that any territories above this line would have to join the Union as free states. Only territories below the line could join as slave states.

The line didn't work. More states joined the Union from 1850-1854. People argued about whether these states should be free states or slave states.

New laws changed The Missouri Compromise.

Abraham Lincoln was not happy about these new laws. He hated slavery and thought that all new states should make it illegal.

Let's take another step toward the Civil War.

(Pause)

In 1854, the Republican Party was created.

Before 1854, there were two political parties: the Democrats and the Whigs. The Republican party was formed to get rid of slavery.

Why is it important that we know when the Republican party was formed?

(Pause)

It's important because in 1858, Lincoln became the Illinois Republican Party's nominee for the U.S. Senate. After Lincoln was nominated, he said:

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."*

This is a very well-known quote by President Lincoln. It shows that he knew that trouble was growing in the United States, and it needed to be fixed.

After he was nominated, Lincoln participated in debates against his opponent: Stephen Douglas. This happened in 1858.

Stephen Douglas was already a senator in Illinois. He and Lincoln were polar opposites. Douglas agreed with slavery—Lincoln did not.

The pair debated on seven different occasions. These debates were published and read widely. Lincoln did not win the election, but these debates did help him become well-known throughout the country.

Even though he lost the election for the U.S. Senate, the Republican party chose him as their candidate for the presidency in May 1860.

Almost everyone was surprised when he won the election on November 6, 1860.

Even Lincoln was surprised. In her book, *Who Was Abraham Lincoln?* Janet B. Pascal explained the feelings of Abe Lincoln and his wife, Mary.

*“Mary was thrilled—she had always wanted to be the wife of a president. But Lincoln could not sleep, ‘I then felt as I never had before the responsibility that was upon me,’ he said. He was an unlikely president. He’d had only one year of school. He had almost no experience in national government. He was not a war hero. He’d spent his whole life in pioneer towns...And now, suddenly, he was the sixteenth president of the United States.”*

Can you imagine how stressful it would be to be president?

(Pause)

After Lincoln was elected, but before he took office, seven states left the Union. They said they were no longer part of the United States and Lincoln wasn’t their president.

They started their own country called the Confederate States of America and elected Jefferson Davis to be their president.

Lincoln became president on March 4, 1861. After he took office, four more states left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America.

Now that they were a separate country, the new Confederate States felt that all the military forts in their states belonged to them. These forts were built by the federal government of the United States. They told President Lincoln to give them Fort Sumter. Lincoln refused.

So, on April 12, 1861, the Confederate Army attacked Fort Sumter. This was the beginning of the Civil War.

We’ve reached the Civil War, but we can’t stop here. Let’s add a little bit more to our timeline.

As the Civil War continued, many people thought that Abraham Lincoln was lying about his feelings about slavery. Why? Because he didn’t get rid of it.

Why didn’t he?

(Pause)

Because he had to govern the country according to the Constitution.

Even though he thought slavery was wrong, he felt that the Constitution allowed people to own slaves.

So, he hesitated. But he thought about it day and night trying to come up with a solution.

As the war went on, Lincoln could see that having slaves was helping the South defeat the Union.

The Constitution did allow him to do something that would keep an enemy from destroying the United States.

He felt he could legally free the slaves in the states that were fighting against the United States. So, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation. This proclamation freed all the slaves in the Confederacy.

Once the slaves were freed, many of them, about 186,000, joined the Union army.

Our timeline is done! As you can see, Abraham Lincoln ran for president of the United States during a time of great unrest in the Union. Within a month of his inauguration as president, the Civil War began.

## **VIDEO 2 - Assignment**

Today, we learned about Abraham Lincoln's life leading up to the Civil War. We also learned about the Emancipation Proclamation that he issued to free the slaves in the South.

What does the word "emancipate" mean?

**(Pause)**

Let's find out! Print this handout. Use it as a guide for your study of this word.

First, look up the definition in the dictionary.

Then draw a picture of what this dictionary definition means to you. This might be a little tricky, but you can do it! Be creative!

After you find the definition and draw your picture, try to think of synonyms and antonyms. Use a thesaurus if you need help!

When you finish, show someone your worksheet and teach them about the word "emancipate."

## **8th Grade Level**

### **VIDEO 1**

Hi and welcome to History!

Today we are going to talk about Abraham Lincoln and the events leading up to the Civil War. What could possibly cause the citizens of a nation to fight against each other?

(pause)

To help us understand what happened, we are going to make a timeline.

The first event on our timeline happened in 1820! Let's put this on the far-left side of our timeline. Now let's learn about the Missouri Compromise!

Back in 1819, Missouri was a territory and wanted to become a state. At that time, the United States of America, sometimes referred to as "the Union," was made of 22 states.

Half of the states were free states, meaning slavery was illegal. The other half were slave states. If Missouri joined the Union, there would be more slave states than free states. This caused a problem.

It made people who thought slavery was wrong upset because they did not want pro-slavery people to have more power in the government.

What do you think they should do to solve this problem?

(pause)

Luckily, there was another state, Maine, that also wanted to join the Union. Missouri joined the Union as a slave state, and Maine joined as a free state. This agreement was called the Missouri Compromise.

As part of the Missouri Compromise, a line was drawn on the map. Let's look at the map. Do you see the green line?

This line was made to prevent the Missouri issue from happening again. It was decided that any territories above this line would have to join the Union as free states. Only territories below the line could join as slave states.

Okay, the next part of our timeline comes from Abraham Lincoln's personal life. It happened on February 1, 1850.

(pause)

Lincoln's second son, Eddie, had been very sick, and at the age of three, he died. Abraham Lincoln and his wife were extremely sad. Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary, shut herself in her bedroom and cried for weeks. Lincoln threw himself into his work, hoping that staying busy would help him overcome his sorrow.

The next card in our timeline says 1850–1854. Remember the Missouri Compromise? And the line it drew across the United States? That line didn't work.

As more states joined the Union, people argued about whether these states should be free states or slave states. New laws changed The Missouri Compromise. One of these laws was the Kansas–Nebraska Act. It stated that the citizens of each state were allowed to decide if they wanted their state to be a free state or a slave state.

Abraham Lincoln was not happy about these new laws. He hated slavery and thought that all new states should make it illegal.

Harriet Beecher Stowe also hated slavery. In 1852 she wrote a book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Let's add this to our timeline.

This book was about the horrors of slavery. People all over the United States read it and began to see how bad slavery was.

Let's take another step toward the Civil War.

(pause)

In 1854 the Republican Party was created. Have you heard of the Republican party before?

(pause)

Before 1854, there were two political parties: the Democrats and the Whigs. Abraham Lincoln was a Whig. After the Kansas–Nebraska Act passed, many people were upset. They wanted to get rid of slavery, so they created the Republican party.

Many Whigs, and some Democrats, joined the Republican party to get rid of slavery.

Why is it important that we know when the Republican party was formed?

(pause)

It's important, because in 1858 Lincoln became the Illinois Republican Party's nominee for the U.S. Senate. After Lincoln was nominated, he said,

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."*

This is a very well-known quote by President Lincoln. It shows that he knew that trouble was brewing in the United States, and it needed to be fixed.

After he was nominated, Lincoln participated in debates against his opponent, Stephen Douglas. This also happened in 1858.

Stephen Douglas was already a senator in Illinois. He and Lincoln were polar opposites. Douglas agreed with slavery, but Lincoln did not.

The pair debated on seven different occasions. These debates were published and read widely. Lincoln did not win the election, but these debates did help him become well-known throughout the country.

Even though he lost the election for the U.S. Senate, the Republican party chose him as their candidate for the presidency in May 1860.

Almost everyone was surprised when he won the election on November 6, 1860.

Even Lincoln was surprised. In her book, *Who Was Abraham Lincoln?* Janet B. Pascal explained the feelings of Mary and Abe Lincoln:

*“Mary was thrilled—she had always wanted to be the wife of a president. But Lincoln could not sleep, ‘I then felt as I never had before the responsibility that was upon me,’ he said. He was an unlikely president. He’d had only one year of school. He had almost no experience in national government. He was not a war hero. He’d spent his whole life in pioneer towns. He’d been defeated every time he ran for the Senate. He didn’t even know exactly what a president did. And now, suddenly, he was the sixteenth president of the United States.”*

Can you imagine how stressful it would be to be president?

(pause)

After Lincoln was elected, but before he was inaugurated, seven states seceded from the Union. They said they were no longer part of the United States, and Lincoln wasn’t their president.

They started their own country called the Confederate States of America and elected Jefferson Davis to be their president.

Lincoln was inaugurated as president on March 4, 1861. In the weeks following his inauguration, four more states seceded from the Union and joined the Confederate States of America.

Now that they were a separate country, the new Confederate States felt that all the military forts in their states belonged to them, even though the federal government of the United States had built them. They told President Lincoln to give them Fort Sumter. Lincoln refused.

So, on April 12, 1861, the Confederate Army attacked Fort Sumter. This was the beginning of the Civil War.

It's called the Civil War because it was a fight between two parts of the same country. The two sides were the North and the South, or the Union and the Confederacy.

We reached the Civil War, but we can't stop here. Let's add a little bit more to our timeline.

Almost a year later, on February 20, 1862, tragedy struck the Lincoln family. Willie Lincoln, Abe and Mary's son, died at the age of 11.

The whole family deeply mourned this loss. President Lincoln didn't work for weeks. Mary Lincoln wouldn't leave her room. The loss of Eddie and Willie gave Lincoln great compassion for the families of soldiers who died in the Civil War.

The Civil War continued. Many people thought that Abraham Lincoln was lying about his stance on slavery because he didn't abolish it.

Why didn't he?

(pause)

Because he had to govern the country according to the Constitution.

Even though he knew slavery was wrong, he felt that the Constitution allowed people to own slaves.

So, he hesitated. But he thought about it day and night, trying to come up with a solution.

As the war went on, Lincoln could see that having slaves was helping the South win the war. The slaves cooked and sewed and farmed for the Southern soldiers.

Ah ha! The Constitution *did* allow him to do something that would keep an enemy from destroying the United States.

He felt he could legally free the slaves in the states that were fighting against the United States.

So, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation. This proclamation freed all the slaves in the Confederacy.

Once the slaves were freed, many of them, about 186,000, joined the Union army.

Our timeline is done! As you can see, Abraham Lincoln ran for president of the United States during a time of great unrest in the Union. Within a month of his inauguration as president, the Civil War began.

## **VIDEO 2 - Assignment**

Today we learned about Abraham Lincoln's life leading up to the Civil War. We also learned about the Emancipation Proclamation that he issued to free the slaves in the South.

What does the word *emancipate* mean?

(pause)

Let's find out! Print this handout. Use it as a guide for your study of this word.

First look up the definition in the dictionary.

Then draw a picture of what this dictionary definition means to you. This might be a little tricky, but you can do it! Be creative!

After you find the definition and draw your picture, try to think of synonyms and antonyms. Use a thesaurus if you need help!

When you finish, show someone your worksheet and teach them about the word *emancipate*.

Challenge yourself to use the word *emancipation* *five* times in conversations throughout the day.