



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #42 - Abraham Lincoln

Maggie Says...

Today's lesson is about Abraham Lincoln: Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. "Honest Abe" as he was called, became president during a very difficult time in American history, when people disagreed so much over how our country should run that they started a war. President Lincoln worked hard to keep our country together during that crisis, and to make sure our country started to treat everyone more equally.

Sticky Situation: Imagine your class is trying to decide what movie to watch. One half of the class wants to watch the Lion King, and the other half wants to watch the Little Mermaid. Eventually, some people get so mad that they want to leave the class instead of watching the movie they don't like. Would it help to have someone that everyone likes and respects to solve the argument?

Who was Abraham Lincoln: Abe Lincoln was born into a very poor family. He worked very hard, and eventually taught himself enough to become a lawyer and political leader. Eventually, he became the 16th president of the United States. He served as president during the Civil War, which started after some of the states decided to try to leave the country. Even though he made a lot of enemies on the way, Abe Lincoln decided that as president, he should try to keep the country together and to fight for the truth, our country, our system of government, democracy, and most importantly equal rights and freedom for all our citizens. He led our country to victory during this difficult and terrible war but was sadly killed by people who disagreed with him. Today, we remember him for his honesty, leadership, strength, and as one of the best presidents that we have ever had. Many people in the United States see him as a role model not just for presidents, but for everyone.

Activity: Have you ever had to do the right thing even though you knew someone would be mad at you for it? What did you do? Do you think it is important for our leaders to do the right thing even though it might make some people mad? Thinking about these questions will help you understand why Abraham Lincoln is one of our country's most famous presidents.

Civic Resources: For more resources on Abraham Lincoln, please look at:

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/celebrate-lincolns-birthday-born-1809/> and <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/us-presidents/abraham-lincoln/>.