

## Maggie's Civics Corner

### Lesson #29 – Abraham Lincoln



#### Maggie says ...

*As a dog, I must listen to my human family members when they try to keep me out of trouble. They lead our family to keep us safe and to help us with the different challenges we face every day.*

**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, a time when people disagreed so much over how our country should be run that they started a war – our Civil 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. Half of the class wants to watch *The Lion King*, while the other half wants to watch *The Little Mermaid*. Some classmates get so mad that the movie chosen will be one they don't like, they say they will leave the class than watch a movie they don't like. What do you think of the position of these classmates? Do you agree or disagree with them? Be prepared to explain your answer, and when you do, be sure to do it respectfully. Do you think it would help to have someone everyone trusts and respects to help resolve this disagreement? Whom might that be in your class?

**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, political leader, and ultimately the 16th President of the United States. Lincoln served as president during the Civil War, which started after some of the states decided to try to leave the country. Despite making enemies on his path to the presidency, Lincoln fought to keep the U.S. together and to fight for truth, our system of government, democracy, and most importantly, equal rights and freedom for ALL citizens. Abraham Lincoln led our country to victory during this difficult and terrible war, but sadly was one of its casualties – he was killed by a person who disagreed with him and his policies for our country. Today, we remember Lincoln for his honesty, leadership, and strength, and as one of the best presidents ever in the history of the United States. Many people in our country and the world view Lincoln as a role model not just for presidents or government leaders, but for everyone.

**Activity:** Have you ever done "the **right thing**" even though you knew someone might be mad at you for doing it? What did you do, or what opinion did you have with which others didn't agree? 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 and beloved presidents.

**Civics Resources:** Check out these sites for additional information about Abraham Lincoln:

[Scholastic's The Teacher Store](#) has wonderful books about Lincoln for all reading levels

[National Geographic Kids – Abraham Lincoln](#)