

Abraham Lincoln in New Jersey

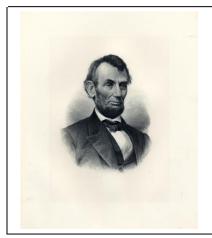
Target Age: High School
Time Period: 19th Century
Featured County: Mercer
NJ 350th Theme: Liberty

NJ Common Core Standards:

Social Studies: 6.1.12.A.4.a, 6.3.12.A.2

Social Studies Skills: Critical Thinking

Language Arts Literacy: 3.1 Reading, 3.2 Writing, 3.3 Speaking



Courtesy of New Jersey State Archives; Department of State

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What were the attitudes of the residents of New Jersey towards Abraham Lincoln and the issue of liberty and freedom?

BACKGROUND:

Abraham Lincoln's visit to New Jersey as President-elect began as many such visits do: traveling from Manhattan to Jersey City across the Hudson River on a route approximating that of the Lincoln Tunnel. On February 21, 1861, Lincoln was met by large crowds in Jersey City, Newark, and New Brunswick. He made brief remarks at each location before arriving in Trenton.

Yet the state's response to the President-elect was not universally welcoming. New Jersey is the only state that remained in the Union, but failed to cast a majority of its votes for Lincoln in either the election of 1860 or 1864. This strong Democratic influence should not be surprising. New Jersey was a state with a growing immigrant population, as well as large urban areas and important cultural and economic ties to the South.

Lincoln addressed the New Jersey Senate and the General Assembly in separate sessions that day in Trenton. The highlights of his speeches were references to George Washington and the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War, as well as his own resolve to preserve the Union. Perhaps more important was Lincoln's acknowledgement that a majority of representatives from both houses of the New Jersey Legislature were Democrats. Despite party and political differences, Lincoln returned the warm reception of both houses. The symbolism was striking. While many in the audience and across the state had opposed him in the election, they still acknowledged and accepted him as their President. This attitude stood in stark contrast to the southern states which had seceded quickly after his election.

ACTIVITY:

As a class, review the issues of the Election of 1860, the results of the election, and the movement towards secession by the southern states.

In small groups, the students will read Lincoln's speech to the New Jersey Senate and the *Daily True American* articles. After completing the readings, the students will discuss the central theme of each document, the purpose, and how each reflects the views of opposing political parties.

As a class, review the results of each group's findings. Continue the discussion by asking such questions as:

- How can groups with a common heritage, but with different political beliefs, work together?
- Why did Lincoln evoke the role of New Jersey during the Revolutionary War on the eve of the Civil War?
- What role does liberty play in the political motivations and objectives of both Lincoln and the New Jersey Democrats who opposed him?
- What conclusions can be drawn about the attitudes of the citizens of New Jersey toward southern slavery and secession?

FOLLOW-UP:

After four long years of fighting in the Civil War, over 600,000 deaths, and yet another Presidential election in which New Jersey did not support the incumbent, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April of 1865. Regardless of political and philosophical differences, New Jersey still displayed a tremendous amount of admiration and respect for the recently fallen President.

Based upon the information, pictures, and primary documents below, hold a class discussion on how the voters of New Jersey viewed Lincoln considering recent events and political differences. For homework, the students will write a eulogy for Abraham Lincoln that might have appeared in a local New Jersey newspaper based upon the class activities and discussions.

Assassination and Funeral

The following text is drawn from *Lincoln and New Jersey: A Bicentennial Tribute by the New Jersey State Archives* unless otherwise credited. Courtesy of New Jersey State Archives; Department of State.

"The train left Philadelphia at 4:00 a.m. People gathered at the station in their bed clothes to bid farewell. After passing through many New Jersey towns the train reached the Jersey City depot at 10:00 a.m. The station clock was stopped at 7:20 a.m., the time of the president's death. From Jersey City, the body was ferried across the Hudson River and taken to New York City Hall. There, 500,000 mourners came to view the remains." ¹

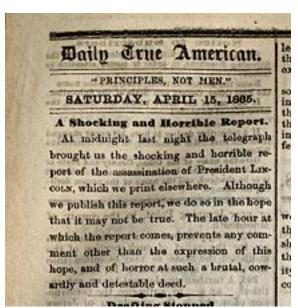
¹ With Malice Towards None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition. Special Presentation. From the Library of Congress. http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lincoln/interactives/long-journey-home/apr-24/index.html

The Funeral Train of Abraham Lincoln in New Jersey



Stereo Opticon Card from the personal collection of Anna Aschkenes

In the wake of Lincoln's assassination on Friday, April 14, 1865, the *Daily True American* expressed the same shock and outrage felt throughout the northern states. The *True American's* editions reported the passage of Lincoln's funeral train through Trenton on Monday, April 24, at 6:00 a.m.



Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library

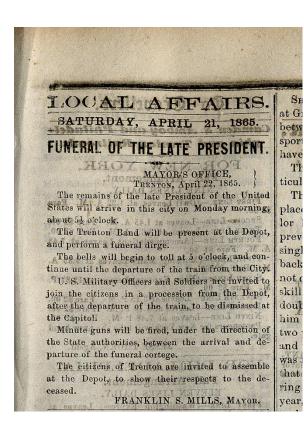
April 15, 1865

On the day after the President's assassination, the *True American*'s editors wrote in disbelief: "At midnight last night the telegraph brought us the shocking and horrible report of the assassination of President Lincoln, which we print elsewhere. Although we publish this report, we do so in the hope that it may not be true. The late hour at which the report comes, prevents any comment other than the expression of this hope, and of horror at such a brutal, cowardly and detestable act."

Daily Erne American. "PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1865. The Death of the Precident. At all times, and under any circumstance, the death of a high public functionary charged with important and responsible duties, is an event not to be viewed with indifference, but the circum stances attendant upon the death of Precident Lincoln at this very critical moment of the country's kind reflections and to indicate the country of the country in the precident country is the precident and to indicate dealings of the deepest anxiety and solicitude. of the county purify reflections and to clicit the most purify dedepost anxiety and solicitude. Differing as we have, politically, from the policy and principles of the party of which Mr. Lucetx was the head, and condemning, as we do, many of his public acts, we would do injustice to his memory did we would do injustice to his memory did we will not be a supported by the condemning as we do, many of his public acts, we would do injustice to his memory did we would not consider the condemning as we do, many of his public acts, we would do consion from all who knew him the sincerest sorrow at his death. We believe that, considering the difficult position in which he was placed, and the position in which he was placed, and the position in which he was placed, and the best policy of the understanding, and we had been led to hope from the course he had recently seemed disposed to pursue, that he had not been ided to hope from the course he had recently seemed disposed to pursue, that he was to a two hor conceeded in paying the was the way to a two hor conceeded in paying the way to a two his recently was made in the conding of the unbappy civil war which has been so fatal in its consequences to the people of this once liappy and united country. But there is nothing more to be expected of him. The ruthless hand of Dawh has placed him above all mortal affections. fairs, and sent his immorest the content of the hope and pray, to a world free from sin and sorrow. That he should have died by the hand of a sent sent is there to be deplored for the sake of the historic to be deplored for the sake of the limit of the sent is there so blind or lost to cosmich reason, who cannot see that when personal vengeance or malies shall be permitted to inflict its own punishments, society will be broken into fragments, all order sty will be broken into fragments, all order will be an the many a time during the life of every many the same through which the country has been passing the last four years, that the law must be ledd supreme, that every violation of its condensate of the life of the same that we have such many a content and the life of the life of the last four years, that the law must be ledd supreme, that every violation of its condensate of the same that every violation of its condensate of the last four years, that the law must be condensated to the same that the condensate of the last four years, that the last four years, that the consistent of the last four years, that the last four years is a second of the last four years, that the consistent is the last four years, that it is not alone the measure of our meaning, that it is not alone the measure of our meaning, that it is not alone the measure of our meaning, that it is not alone the measure of our meaning that it is not alone the measure of our meaning that it is not alone the measure of our meaning that it is not alone the measure of our meaning that it is not alone the measure of the life of the last four the last four the last four years of civilization. It was just on the very day when the publi mind was agitated by the terrible outrag which had been perpetinted at Washington when a place of business in this city was surrounded by a mob, and the proprieto made to find afety in flight and to close up his business. We seek not the cause of his business. We seek not the cause of causes of this affair, we care not how it if feeted the individuals concerned, but we look upon it as a great public wrong, as a relative to the properties of the seek of the seek of the control of the public wrong as a menable to censure, if not to purious and and we say to our readers if they love their country and its free institutions, they must, in trifling as well as important matters, endeavor to arreat the spirit of mismatches, endeavor to arreat the array of the purious winder the law, the punishment of error or crime. matters, endeavor to arrest the spirit of misrule which wrests from the hands of justice and the law, the punishment of error or the display, the punishment of error or the display, the punishment of the United States, the Chief Magistrate of a great and powerful people, whose person was entitled to be shielded from violence or disrespect, not only by the law but by the sanctity of his high official station, is an instance of the lengths to which the sanctity of his high official station, is ministance of the lengths to which the whom the Foul don can be carried. By the sanctity of his high official station, is ministance of the lengths to which the special don the foul the foul don the foul the

April 17, 1865

Two days later, the newspaper was filled with editorials and reports on the assassination. The editors acknowledge their political differences with Lincoln, but credited the slain President with "private traits of character which would naturally attract him while living the warm affection of many, while they would occasion from all who knew him the sincerest sorrow at his death."



April 21, 1865

Mayor Franklin S. Mills's proclamation announcing plans for the city's tribute to Lincoln as his funeral train passed through Trenton appeared in the April 21, 1865 edition of the *True American*.

Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library

ARRIVAL OF THE REMAINS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.—Yesterday morning at a quarter before 6 o'clock, the train conveying the remains of the late President of the United States, reached this city. At that early hour a very large number of the eltizens assembled at the depot to pay their respects to the memory of the illustrious dead, and long before the train arrived the space in every part adjacent to the depot was filled with people.

Governor Parker and staff had proceeded to the State line, to join the funeral cor-

Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library

April 25, 1865

The newspaper included a detailed account of the Lincoln funeral train's slow procession though Trenton on Monday, April 24, 1865. The report mentions that "The pressure of the crowd ... was so excessive that those in the front part of the [train] depot found it difficult to keep their places, and many were deprived of the opportunity of seeing the [funeral] car." It concluded: "Considering the very early hour, the number of citizens present and participating in the obsequies, was remarkably large. No accident occurred, and the solemn affair passed off with great credit to the city."

New Jersey State Archives; Department of State Source: http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/lincoln.html

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Additional Teaching Resources

Election of 1860

http://condor.depaul.edu/tps/Abraham Lincoln Presidential/Lesson 3 Campaign of 1860.pdf

Designed for middle school, this lesson plan introduces the issues during the Election of 1860, the candidates, the positions of the political parties, and the results.

Inauguration of 1861-Defending the American Union http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/first-inaugural-address-1861mdashdefending-american-union#sect-introduction

Designed for the high school setting, this lesson plan focuses on primary document analysis, as well as the message of Lincoln and the Republican Party after the Election of 1860 and prior to the start of the Civil War. There are three other era-related lesson plans available as well.

For More Information

"Lincoln and New Jersey," New Jersey State Archives: http://wwww.nj.gov/state/archives/lincoln.html

Anthony Olszewski, "Abraham Lincoln Spoke in Jersey City," 2002. http://www.cityofjerseycity.org/lincoln/

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lincoln1.asp

Holzer, Harold, Lincoln President-Elect Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860-1861, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008)

Activity Resources

Address to the New Jersey State Senate Trenton, New Jersey February 21, 1861

President-elect Abraham Lincoln spoke separately to each branch of the New Jersey legislature on his inaugural journey to Washington. In the Senate, he referred to Trenton's Revolutionary War heroics and spoke of himself as a "humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty, and of this, his almost chosen people, for perpetuating the object of that great struggle."

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Senate of the State of New-Jersey: I am very grateful to you for the honorable reception of which I have been the object. I cannot but remember the place that New-Jersey holds in our early history. In the early Revolutionary struggle, few of the States among the old Thirteen had more of the battle-fields of the country within their limits than old New-Jersey. May I be pardoned if, upon this occasion, I mention that away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen, "Weem's

Life of Washington." I remember all the accounts there given of the battle fields and struggles for the liberties of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, New-Jersey. The crossing of the river; the contest with the Hessians; the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves on my memory more than any single revolutionary event; and you all know, for you have all been boys, how these early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that those men struggled for; that something even more than National Independence; that something that held out a great promise to all the people of the world to all time to come; I am exceedingly anxious that this Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea for which that struggle was made, and I shall be most happy indeed if I shall be an humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty, and of this, his almost chosen people, for perpetuating the object of that great struggle. You give me this reception, as I understand, without distinction of party. I learn that this body is composed of a majority of gentlemen who, in the exercise of their best judgment in the choice of a Chief Magistrate, did not think I was the man. I understand, nevertheless, that they came forward here to greet me as the constitutional President of the United States -- as citizens of the United States, to meet the man who, for the time being, is the representative man of the nation, united by a purpose to perpetuate the Union and liberties of the people. As such, I accept this reception more gratefully than I could do did I believe it was tendered to me as an individual.

Source: http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/trenton1.htm

Election of 1860 Results of New Jersey's voters

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popul	ar Vote	Electoral Vote
Abraham Lincoln	Hannibal Hamlin	Republican	58,346	48.13%	4
Stephen Douglas	Herschel Johnson	Fusion	62,869	51.87%	3

Source: http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?year=1860&fips=34&f=0&off=0&elect=0

Election of 1864 Results of New Jersey's voters

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular	Vote	Electoral Vote
George McClellan	George Pendleton	Democratic	68,024	52.84%	7
Abraham Lincoln	Andrew Johnson	Union	60,723	47.16%	0

Source: http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?year=1864&fips=34&off=0&elect=0&f=0

The contemporary *Daily True American* newspaper of Trenton leaned strongly toward the Democratic Party, and its reports reflected a clear bias against Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election.

In a post-election column, "All Hail New Jersey!," the newspaper's editors lauded New Jersey's electorate for casting the majority of the popular vote to Lincoln's opponents.

They wrote: "It is with no small amount of pride and satisfaction that we record the facts to be found in our table of returns of the electoral vote [they meant the popular vote], which, although not complete, show conclusively that the Rail-Splitter has been defeated in the State by a majority of about five thousand...."

Later in the same article they wrote: "Whatever disasters may result to the country from the election of LINCOLN, which seems to be conceded on all hands, it will be a great consolation for the Democracy and Union men of this State to know, they are not responsible."

New Jersey State Archives; Department of State Source: http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/lincoln.html

All Hail New Jersey!

By the most accurate returns which we have been able to obtain up to this time, it is positively certain that our glorious little State has, as usual, proved true to the Union! Amid the crambling of neighboring States, with the "Empire", State on the one hand, and the "Keystone" on the other, bowing their necks to the yoke of Abolitionism and Disunion. New Jersey stands erect, true to the Constitution, and faithful to the Union!

Daily True American November 8, 1860

Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library

On the Eve of the Civil War, Lincoln Takes a Stand in Trenton

By James M. McPherson www.officialnj350.com

On February 11, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln departed from his home in Springfield, Illinois to take up the burdens of the presidency of a country that was falling apart. Seven deep-South states had already seceded from the Union. Delegates from those states were meeting in Montgomery, Alabama to create the new nation of the Confederate States of America. The rest of the country anxiously awaited Lincoln's words as he made short speeches in cites and at whistle-stops on his way to Washington. Not wanting to tip his hand before the inaugural address on March 4, and concerned that a careless remark or slip of the tongue might inflame the crisis further, Lincoln confined himself mostly to platitudes and trivia in his attempts to say nothing controversial. The consequent censure of him as a lightweight unequal to the demands of the hour mounted as the trip continued. By the time Lincoln reached Trenton on February 21, he knew that he must say something of substance and importance to quiet the criticism. Invitations from both houses of the New Jersey legislature to address each of them gave him opportunities to do so.

In his speech to the state Senate, Lincoln referred to the battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776, where the American victory over Britain's mercenary Hessian troops saved the Revolution from collapse. He invoked that famous event as inspiration for efforts to preserve the nation that George Washington's soldiers had fought to create. "Of all the battle-fields and struggles for the liberty of the country" he had read about in his youth, Lincoln told the senators, "none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton. . . . The crossing of the river; the contest with the Hessians; the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves on my memory more than any single revolutionary event. . . . I recollect thinking then, boy though I was, that there must have been something more than common that those men struggled for." Applying the lessons of the Revolution to the crisis of 1861, Lincoln said that he was "exceedingly anxious" that what those men had fought for, "something even more than National Independence . . . something that held out a great promise to all the people of the world [for] all time to come; I am exceedingly anxious that this Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea for which that struggle was made."

But how could this be done without war? Perhaps it could not. "I shall do all that may be in my power to promote a peaceful settlement of all our difficulties," Lincoln told members of the General Assembly later that day. "The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am." But, Lincoln added portentously, "It may be necessary to put the foot down firmly." The newspaper correspondent reporting the speech noted that at these words, "the audience broke out into cheers so loud and long that for some moments it was impossible to hear Mr. L's voice." When Lincoln was finally able to continue, he asked the Jersey lawmakers: "And if I do my duty, and do right, you will sustain me, will you not?" The audience erupted with "loud cheers, and cries of 'Yes,' Yes,' 'We will.""

foot dov	Two months later, after Confederate guns forced the surrender of Fort Sumter, Lincoln put his foot down firmly. And New Jerseyans sustained him as promised, sending more than 70,000 soldiers and sailors to fight for the Union, of whom nearly 6,000 gave their lives.					
and an A	I. McPherson is to merican Civil Wo <u>reedom f</u> or which	ar historian. He	has written nu	merous works,		

CREDIT INFORMATION:

In Classroom Activity:

- Pg. 1: Lincoln Portrait, Abraham Lincoln Engraving. Courtesy New Jersey State Archives; Department of State.
- Pg. 3: Funeral Train of Abraham Lincoln in New Jersey. Stereo Opticon Card from the personal collection of Anna Aschkenes.
- Pg. 3: Daily True American, April 15, 1865. Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library.
- Pg. 4: Daily True American, April 17, 1865. Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library.
- Pg. 5: Daily True American, April 21, 1865. Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library.
- Pg. 5: Daily True American, April 25, 1865. Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library.
- Pg. 7: Election of 1860: Results of New Jersey's voters. http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?year=1860&fips=34&f=0&off=0&elect=0
- Pg. 7: Election of 1864: Results of New Jersey's voters. http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?year=1864&fips=34&off=0&elect=0&f=0
- Pg. 8: Daily True American, November 8, 1860. Courtesy of Special Collections, New Jersey State Library.

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