

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

Parent Guide

SUMMARY

During this activity, your child will create his or her own Abraham Lincoln hat using mathematical and creative skills.

WHY

After seeing pictures of Abraham Lincoln's hats, you and your child will create your own hat out of paper. In the process, your child will practice following directions. Instruction giving and receiving are important for working and learning together in families, schools, and teams.

TIME

30 minutes

CHALLENGE WORDS

brim: the projecting rim of a hat

cylinder: a geometric shape composed of two parallel faces of identical size and shape (for example, circles) and a curved surface that completely connects their borders; *example*, the basic shape of a can

perpendicular: being at right angles to a given line or plane

GET READY

Read *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* together. Together, look for an image of Lincoln's hat. For tips on reading this book together, check out the [Guided Reading Activity](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/Reading_Whiskers.pdf) (http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/Reading_Whiskers.pdf).

YOU NEED

- Directions sheets (*attached*)
- Background sheet (*attached*)
- pencil
- ruler
- pair of scissors
- black paper plate
- large (12 x 18) sheet of black construction paper
- 8 to 12 inches of yarn
- tape
- glue
- hole puncher
- camera
- (*optional*) compasses
- (*optional*) cardboard for templates

Read the “Directions” sheets for step-by-step instructions.

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

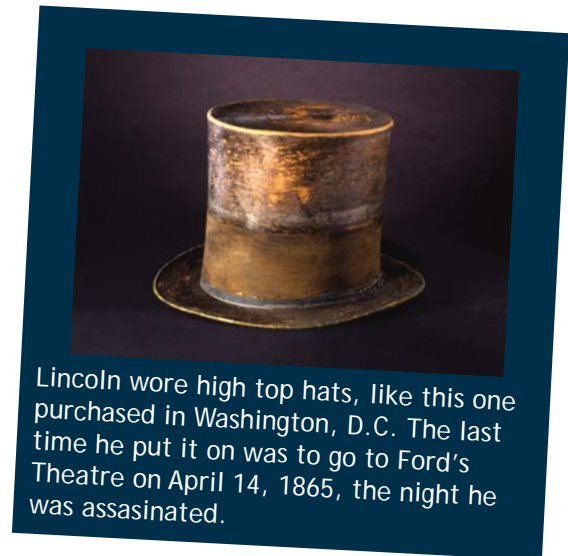
Background Information



Image of Abraham Lincoln and Grace Bedell from *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*.

Abraham Lincoln was the president of the United States of America from 1861 to 1865. As a child growing up on the frontier, there were not many opportunities for him to attend school. Abraham Lincoln is famous for leading America through the Civil War, freeing slaves, and giving thoughtful speeches, like the Gettysburg Address. To find out more about Abraham Lincoln, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/lincoln>.

Abraham Lincoln was six feet and four inches tall, which made him much taller than most people who were alive in the 1800s. He made himself stand out even more by wearing very high top hats like this one.



Lincoln wore high top hats, like this one purchased in Washington, D.C. The last time he put it on was to go to Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865, the night he was assassinated.

How tall are you?

What might be good about being really tall?

Make a top hat like Abraham Lincoln wore.

How tall will you be in your new hat?

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

Directions

For adults and kids to follow together

1. Take a paper plate and trace a big circle in the middle of the paper plate. The paper plate will be the **brim** of your hat and the circle you trace will mark the inside of your hat, so make sure the line you draw will make the inside of the hat big enough to fit the top of your head.
Tip: For extra challenge, take a piece of yarn to measure around the crown of your head, measure it, and then figure out what size of circle you need by using calculations for perimeter, circumference, or diameter.
Tip: To make this circle, you may want to create a template for your child to use, provide a circular object to trace, or use a compass.
2. Cut out the middle of the paper plate carefully with pointed scissors. Save the outer ring of the plate for the brim of your hat, and the cut-out circle for the top of your hat.
3. Hold your construction paper so that the long sides are at the top and bottom. Now, make two lines 2" from the top and 2" from the bottom.
4. Use your scissors to cut slits from the edge of the paper, **perpendicular** to each of the lines you just drew. The slits should be evenly spaced and should not cross over the 2" lines you drew in step 3.
5. Make the construction paper into a **cylinder** shape by taping the short edges together.
6. Push the slits outward to form tabs.
7. Slip the **cylinder** through the plate and tape the tabs to the inside of the plate.

(continued)

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

Directions

For adults and kids to follow together

8. At the top of the hat, bend the tabs in. Glue the circle on top of the tabs.
9. To keep the hat secured to your head, punch holes on either side of the plate and attach yarn. Tie the yarn under your chin. You've finished your hat!
10. Now measure your height with and without your new hat.
Tip: Do the math together: how much taller does the hat make you?
11. Take a picture of you in your new Abraham Lincoln hat and write your height "with hat" on the back.
Tip: For your picture, try posing like Abraham Lincoln when he received Grace Bedell's letter or when he was giving his famous Gettysburg Address speech.

For more activities about Abraham Lincoln and *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*, visit [Our Story: A Letter to Abraham Lincoln](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/>).

Copyright © 2009 Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers written and illustrated by Karen Winnick. Text and illustrations copyright (c) 1996 by Karen Winnick.

Images used by permission of Boyds Mills Press. All rights reserved.

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

Teacher Guide

Read the “Directions” sheets for step-by-step instructions.

SUMMARY:

During this activity, your students will create and model their own Abraham Lincoln hats using mathematical and creative skills.

RATIONALE:

Instruction giving and receiving is important in family and school environments. Children should learn direction-following skills from a young age, including listening/reading for details, asking for clarification, and completing steps in order. By practicing following directions, children will develop into better direction givers, as well.

OBJECTIVES:

- follow directions involving geometry and measurement.
- use simple adjectives to describe top hats like Abraham Lincoln wore.
- recognize images of Abraham Lincoln by his beard, hat, or height.

TIME:

- 20 minutes to create hats
- 10 minutes to measure height

AGE GROUP: K-4

TARGET VOCABULARY:

- **brim:** the projecting rim of a hat
- **cylinder:** a geometric shape composed of two parallel faces of identical size and shape (for example, circles) and a curved surface that completely connects their borders; *example*, the basic shape of a can
- **perpendicular:** being at right angles to a given line or plane

MATERIALS:

- Directions sheets (*attached*)
- Background sheet (*attached*)
- pencil
- ruler
- pair of scissors
- black paper plate
- large (12 x 18) sheet of black construction paper
- 8 to 12 inches of yarn
- tape
- glue
- hole puncher
- camera
- (*optional*) compasses
- (*optional*) cardboard for templates

(continued)

Mr. Lincoln's Hat

PREPARATION:

- Read *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* together. Together, look for an image of Lincoln's hat. For tips on reading this book together, check out the [Guided Reading Activity](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/Reading_Whiskers.pdf) (http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/Reading_Whiskers.pdf).
- (optional) If you plan to use the activity for reading comprehension, copy the instructions for each student or small group.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

- Demonstrate an understanding of an ability to apply measurement terms.
- Follow directions through reading or listening.
- Identify a variety of art and math tools and how to use them safely.

STANDARDS:

NCHS History Standards

K-4 Historical Thinking Standards

3F: Analyze illustrations in historical stories.

K-4 History Content Standards

4C: The student understands historic figures who have exemplified values and principles of American democracy.

IRA/NCTE Language Arts Standards

1. Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

21st-Century Skills

Learning and Innovation Skills

Creativity and Innovation

NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics

K-2 Standards: Geometry

Recognize, name, build, draw, compare, and sort two- and three-dimensional shapes

K-2 Standards: Measurement

Recognize the attributes of length, volume, weight, area, and time

3-5 Standards: Measurement

Understand such attributes as length, area, weight, volume, and size of angle and select the appropriate type of unit for measuring each attribute