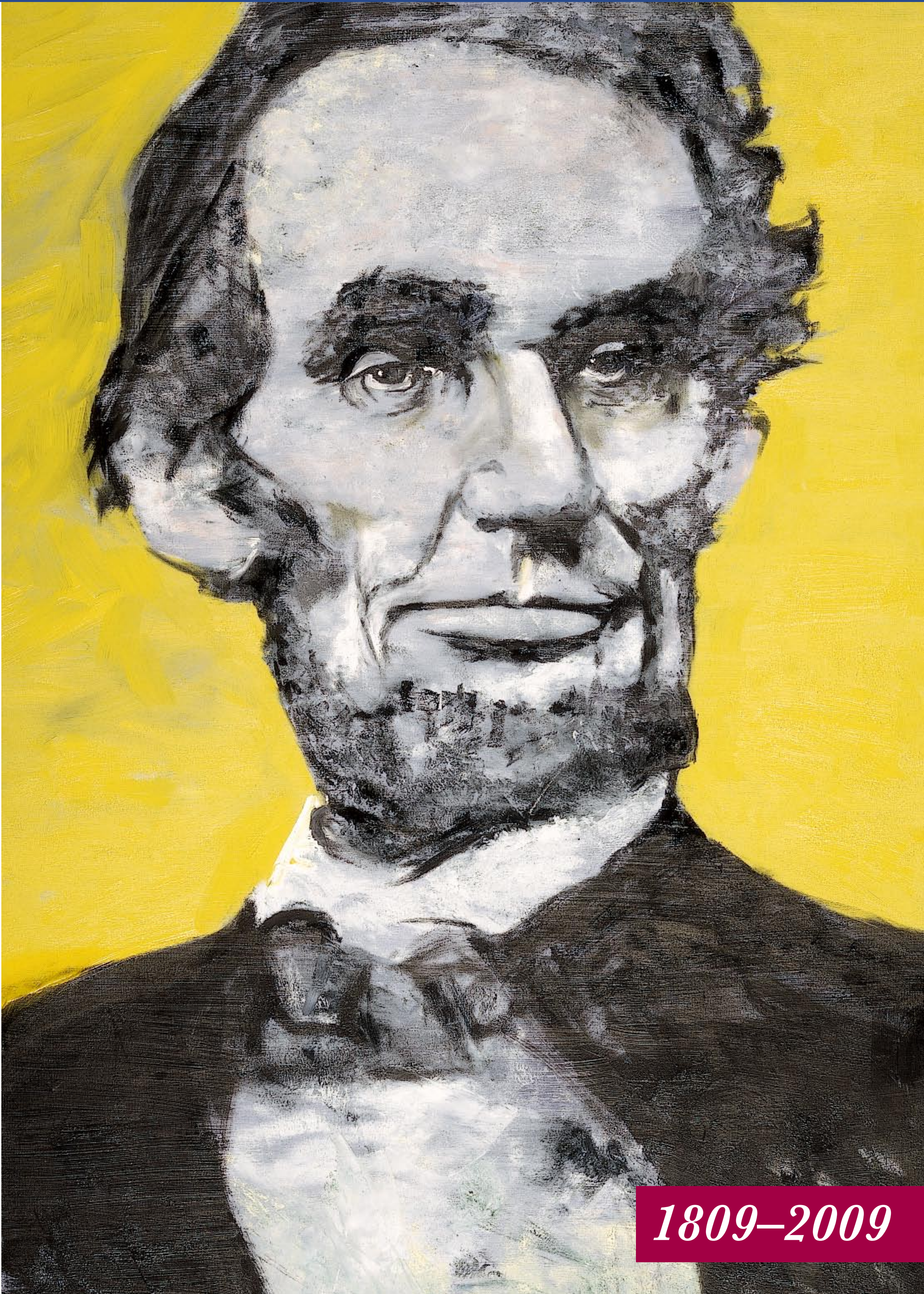


Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday

LIVE THE LEGACY



*1809–2009*



# WHY LINCOLN NOW?

We all know Abraham Lincoln from his image on the penny, the five-dollar bill and the majestic memorial in Washington that bears his name—but does he have meaning for us today?

The 2009 bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth on February 12, 2009, provides an opportunity to explore three ideas important enough that Lincoln gave his life for them: equality of opportunity, freedom, and democracy. The bicentennial also offers us an opportunity to take up the “unfinished work” Lincoln eloquently spoke of in the Gettysburg Address.

**Equality of Opportunity**  
*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*—Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Students will explore Lincoln’s rise from poverty to the presidency, his thoughts on slavery and race, and his belief in the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

**Freedom**  
*...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom...*—Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Students will examine Lincoln’s commitment to the preservation of the Union and the concept of freedom. When Lincoln called for a “new birth of freedom,” how did he redefine the United States?

**Democracy**  
*...government of the people, by the people, for the people...*—Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Students will explore civic engagement in today’s culturally diverse America.

**Lincoln's Legacy**  
*It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.*—Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Students will explore Lincoln’s legacy and take up his challenge of the nation’s “unfinished work.”

Bicentennial Supporters:



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Caterpillar Foundation • John Deere • Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum • Chicago History Museum • Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) • Jerry and Linda Bruckheimer • The Honorable William H. Gray III • The Honorable Jack Kemp • Jean and William Soman

About the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and Foundation  
Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to recommend appropriate ways to commemorate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009. The Commission is predicated on the premise that it will function as a public-private partnership. Congress appropriates funds for administration. Private funding is necessary, however, to produce all programs, events and materials planned for the Bicentennial. To support the public-private partnership, and insure that Lincoln activities continue into the future, the Commission established the ALBC Foundation [a 501(c)(3) based in Washington DC] in 2007.

**Contact Us**  
Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and Foundation  
www.abrahamlincoln200.org  
(202) 707-6998

Painting (front), Lincoln Memorial photo, and poster design by Wendy Allen  
Photo (below) Courtesy of Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-13016

**Resources for Schools**  
www.abrahamlincoln200.org  
Find teaching resources for grades K-12, such as lesson plans, reading lists, interactive games, timelines, and teacher workshop/professional development opportunities. The “Learning about Lincoln” section features materials developed by various educational organizations such as National History Day, the Organization of American Historians, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and many others.

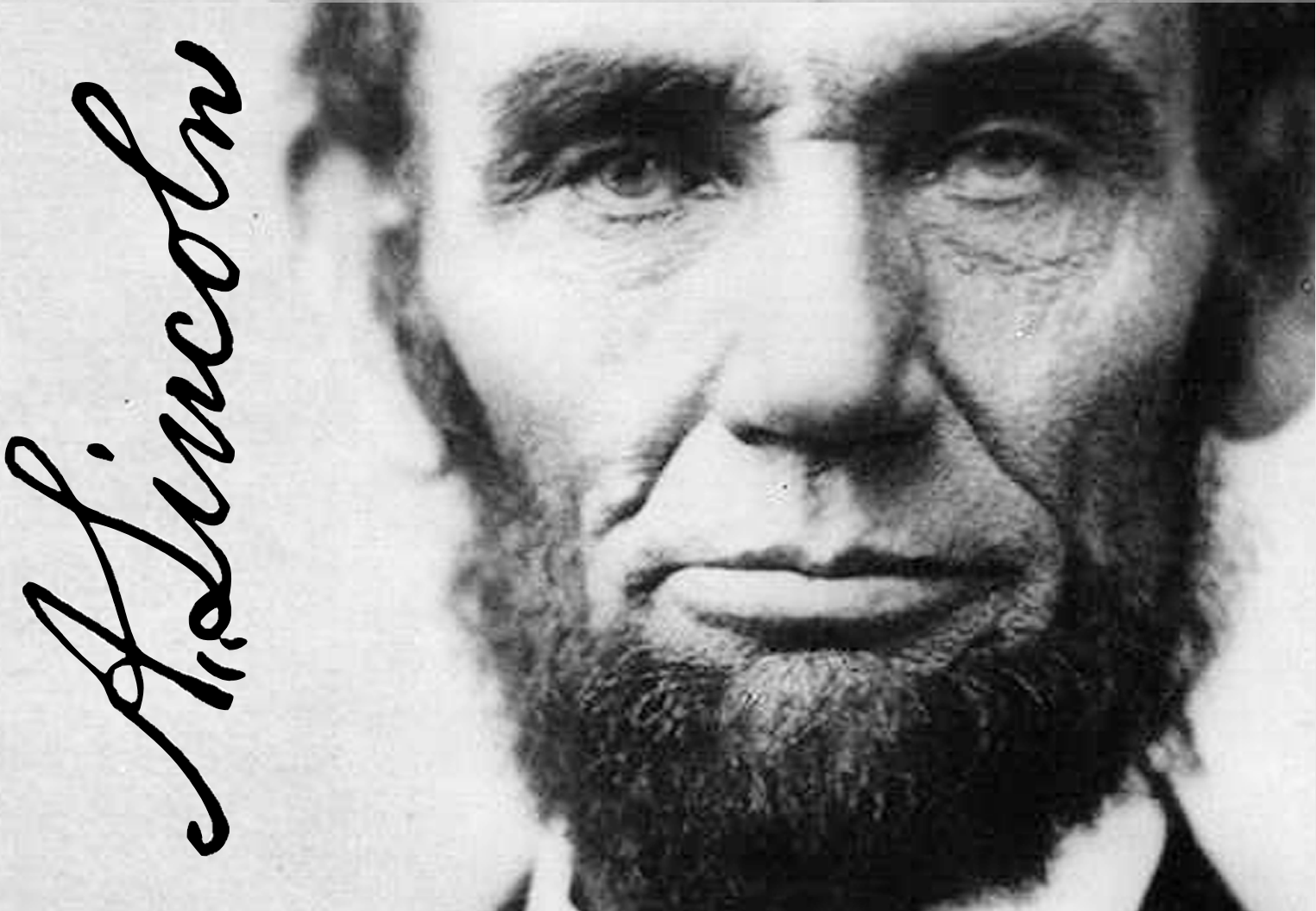
**Lincoln Legacy Schools**  
Be recognized by the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for activities your school is planning to mark the bicentennial. Participating schools will receive a certificate and will be listed on the ALBC website in a national register.

**National Teach-In February 12, 2009**  
Mark your calendars for a live webcast for grades 6-12 that will link students across the country in an exploration of Lincoln’s thoughts, ideals and legacy. Through an engaging interactive presentation, students will explore what made Abraham Lincoln the man he was, examine Lincoln’s legacy in terms of his famous speeches, and explore what his legacy means today.

**Ways to Bring Lincoln Into Your Classroom**  
Grades: K-6

- New Bicentennial pennies will be in circulation for 2009! Have students design their own version and explain their design.
- February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Make a giant 200th birthday card for Lincoln and have everyone in your school sign it.
- Younger students relate well to local history of their town or state. Have students research your community’s history during the Lincoln presidency. How did his presidency impact your community?
- Have students research the various ways Lincoln is honored geographically: in names of towns, streets, buildings, and other landmarks. Did you know he is the most depicted person in American public sculpture, with over 200 statues around the country and growing?
- Abraham Lincoln was known for his skill as a speaker, yet his most famous speech, the Gettysburg Address, is less than three minutes long. Hold an in-school recitation contest of the Gettysburg Address, the Second Inaugural Address or other famous Lincoln speeches.
- Turn your school into a Lincoln museum! Create school-wide exhibits of Lincoln stories, pictures and quotations for your school hallways. Have each class or grade create its own exhibit and hold a contest to determine a winning grade.
- Lincoln surrounded himself with music: he attended dances, operas and band concerts. Have students explore the music of Lincoln’s time at www.abrahamlincoln200.org. They can also explore Lincoln’s musical legacy through Aaron Copeland’s *Lincoln Portrait* and other works.
- Plant a tree or garden at your school in honor of Lincoln’s bicentennial.

- Grades: 7-12
- On May 30, 2009, the Lincoln Memorial will be rededicated, “four score and seven years” after it was dedicated in 1922. Have students explore the original intentions in the Memorial’s design and how it has become a symbol of civil rights.
  - British Prime Minister David Lloyd George said that Abraham Lincoln “lost his nationality in death.” Have students examine Lincoln’s worldwide legacy and present it through new media or in-class presentations.
  - Abraham Lincoln loved reading Shakespeare and *Macbeth* was his favorite play. Have students read the play with an eye to what Lincoln found intriguing.
  - Many poets, including Walt Whitman and Carl Sandburg, have written about Lincoln. Have students read Lincoln inspired poems and create their own. A list can be found at www.abrahamlincoln200.org.
  - To learn more about Lincoln’s attitudes about slavery, race and emancipation, invite students to explore the relationship between African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Compare Douglass’ views of Lincoln to that of other abolitionists of the period. Ask students to consider how later generations of African-Americans viewed Lincoln. What did W.E.B. Du Bois mean when he said Lincoln is “big enough to be inconsistent”?
  - Have students explore what the “unfinished work” Lincoln spoke of in the Gettysburg Address is for our nation today. Encourage them to participate in a service project that honors Lincoln’s legacy.



Abraham Lincoln

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“...a new birth of freedom...”



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