

## Mr. Lincoln's Hat

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*Read the “Directions” sheets for specific instructions.*

### 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 hat, 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

### RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

This activity will work best for children in 1st through 4th grade.

### CHALLENGE WORDS

- **brim**: the projecting rim of a hat
- **cylinder**: a geometric shape composed of two parallel faces of identical size and shape (as circles) and a curved surface that completely connects their borders; such as a paper towel tube or can of soup
- **perpendicular**: being at right angles to a given line or plane; such as the lines that make up a capital letter “L”

### GET READY

- Read *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* together. This book will help your child see an example of a girl using her local post office to send mail. For tips on reading this book together, check out the Guided Reading Activity ([http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/lincoln\\_reading.pdf](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/lincoln/lincoln_reading.pdf)).

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/>.

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### YOU NEED

- Directions sheet (*attached*)
- Step Back in Time sheet (*attached*)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Pair of scissors
- Large (12"x18") sheet of black construction paper
- Black paper plate
- 8 to 12 inches of yarn
- Tape
- Glue
- Hole puncher
- Camera
- (*optional*) Cardboard for templates
- (*optional*) Compasses

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/>.



## Mr. Lincoln's Hat

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*For kids and adults to follow together.*

1. Take a paper plate and trace a big circle in the middle of it. This will mark the inside of your hat, so make sure it will be 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.

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. If you're unsure, take a piece of yarn to measure a good hat size and use the same piece of yarn to find a circle of the same size to trace

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.

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6. Push the slits outward to form tabs.

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7. Slip the cylinder through the plate and tape the tabs to the inside of the plate.

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8. At the top of the hat, bend the tabs in. Glue the circle on top of the tabs.

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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!

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10. Now measure your height with and without your new hat.

**Tip** Do the math together: how much taller does the hat make you?

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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.

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For more activities about Abraham Lincoln and *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/>.

## Mr. Lincoln's Hat

### Step Back in Time

For more information, visit the National Museum of American History Web site <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/lincoln/>.

**A**braham Lincoln was the president of the United States of America from 1861 to 1865. As a child, he grew up in a poor family and wasn't able to spend much time in school because he had to work to help support his family. 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/>.



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



Grace Bedell and Abraham Lincoln  
[Images of *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* by Karen Winnick. Text and illustrations (c) 1996 by Karen Winnick. Used by permission of Boyds Mills Press. All rights reserved.]

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.

*How tall are you?*

*What could be good about being really tall?*

*Make a top hat like Abraham Lincoln wore.*

*How tall will you be in your new hat?*

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*Read the “Parent Guide” and “Directions” sheets for specific instructions.*

### OBJECTIVES

The students will be better able to:

- 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.

### 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 Historical Content Standards*

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

#### *21st-Century Skills*

##### *Learning and Innovation Skills*

- Creativity and Innovation

#### *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.

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### *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