

**Abraham Lincoln, February 5, 1865 by Alexander Gardner [1821–1882]**

1. Compare this portrait to that of Lincoln on a penny. How are they different?
2. Sit as Lincoln sits in this photograph. Notice that his head is turned slightly so that we see the outline of his cheek. Sit perfectly still for three full minutes – Was it hard to do?
3. Where is the light source for this photograph located?
4. Notice in what part of the photograph the light creates dark shadows. Point out some of the darkest of these areas.
5. Compare the size of his hands to his face. Which is in sharper focus, the hands or face?
6. Why might his hands be slightly blurred? What might he be holding in his hands?
7. Ask what the pen and glasses might symbolize.
8. Describe how Lincoln is dressed.
9. His bowtie is crooked. What might a crooked bowtie suggest?
10. Is there anything about his dress to suggest that he is president of the United States?
11. How old do you think Lincoln looks in this photograph? Why?
12. Ask students to describe Lincoln’s expression. How does he feel? Is he sad, happy, bored, tired, or something else?
13. Why was photography an important element in Lincoln’s campaign for president?

**Historical Connections:** Civil War; Reconstruction; Lincoln’s assassination

**Historical Figures:** Abraham Lincoln; John Wilkes Booth

**Geography:** Northern free states; Southern slave states; border states

**Literary Connections and Primary Documents:** *Honest Abe*, Edith Kunhardt; “O Captain! My Captain!,” “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” Walt Whitman; Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address; Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address; Emancipation Proclamation; Lincoln’s “House Divided” speech

**Arts:** photography; work of Mathew Brady