



## The Penny President

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA.LITERACY.W.K.2, W.1.2, W.2.2, W.3.2, W.3.2.A, W.3.2.B, W.3.2.C, W.3.2.D, W.4.2, W.4.2.A, W.4.2.B, W.4.2.C, W.4.2.D, W.4.2.E, W.5.2, W.5.2.A, W.5.2.B, W.5.2.C, W.5.2.D and W.5.2.E

### Setting up the lesson:

1. Give each student a penny to look at and time to observe and comment.
2. Ask them if they know the name of the person on the penny. Write Abraham Lincoln on the board.
3. Tell the storyline: *You're going to write a short biography about Abraham Lincoln by writing important facts about his life. This is non-fiction so you won't write your opinion. You won't use the words I or my.*
4. Ask the students to brainstorm what they know about Abraham Lincoln.
5. Write their responses on the board.
6. Teach the facts in the Bio Box below about Abraham Lincoln. For younger students, you can simply read these facts to them and discuss them. For older students, you can give them their own Bio Box to read, discuss and refer to when they write.
7. Show the five sections:
  - a. Introduction: statement and question
  - b. Fact 1
  - c. Fact 2
  - d. Fact 3
  - e. Conclusion
8. Point out that the 3 facts can come from the Bio Box (which includes his birth, education, appearance, family life, presidency and memorial) and/or any other facts that may not be listed in the Bio Box.



9. Encourage writers to use any of the following words in their writing:

*First, Second, Third, Another Fact, For Example, Also, and, but, especially*

Remember: K-1<sup>st</sup> Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders 2 sentences, 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write:

Guide the students through the following steps.

1. Write a true statement about pennies.

Examples include:

*Pennies can be found in pockets and parking lots. OR  
100 pennies makes a dollar.*

2. Write a question directing the reader's attention to the person on the penny.

*Can you name the person on the penny?*

*How much do you know about the person on the penny?*

*A penny may be worth one cent, but have you ever thought about the worth of the person on the penny?*

3. Write about the 1<sup>st</sup> fact. (1-4 sentences)

4. Write about the 2<sup>nd</sup> fact. (1-4 sentences)

5. Write about the 3<sup>rd</sup> fact. (1-4 sentences)

6. Write a concluding statement(s) that ties Lincoln and the penny.

*Lincoln's face was put on the copper penny in 1909 to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*OR We can remember Abraham Lincoln each time we see, get or spend a penny.*

7. Now glue a penny at the bottom of the paper.

8. Write the title, "The Penny President" at the top.



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIO BOX

Taken from:

[www.fun-facts.org.uk/american-presidents/abraham-lincoln.htm](http://www.fun-facts.org.uk/american-presidents/abraham-lincoln.htm), [www.ustreas.gov](http://www.ustreas.gov)  
and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Memorial)

### Abraham Lincoln

- Birth:** He was born on February 12, 1809 in a log cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky.  
His family was very poor.
- Education:** He was self-educated and taught himself law.
- Appearance:** He was 6 feet 4 inches tall.  
He is known for his tall black hat and is the 1<sup>st</sup> president to wear a beard.
- Family:** He married Mary Todd Lincoln on November 4, 1842. They had 4 boys.
- Presidency:** He was the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America, 1861-1865.  
He was the president during the Civil War.  
He issued the Emancipation Proclamation to secure the liberty of slaves.
- Memorial:** He died on April 15, 1865.  
A sculpture of Lincoln's head (60 ft. high) was carved into Mount Rushmore.  
The Lincoln penny was designed in 1909 to honor his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC was opened.  
In 1959, the penny was redesigned to have the Lincoln Memorial on the back.

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