### Overview

Students will use Zotero to organize the material they have from their online sources and will use Zotero by creating a timeline of the battles that occurred during the war.

### Objectives

Students will

- Discuss major differences between the North and South and how these differences led to the Civil War.
- Examine conflicting opinions about Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.
- Explore and analyze a famous speech or writing by Abraham Lincoln.

### Materials

- The Civil War: A Nation Divided program
- Computer with Internet access
- Resources about the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln.

### Procedures

1. After watching The Civil War: A Nation Divided, discuss how regional differences contributed to the outbreak of the Civil War. The following questions will help guide the conversation.
   - How did the economies of the North and South differ before the Civil War? (The North was industrialized; the South was agricultural.)
   - Why was slavery so important to the South? (Landowners depended on slaves to work in the fields; the South's economy was entirely dependent on slavery.)
   - How did the addition of new states to the Union create dispute? (Free states and slave states both worried about the other side having an advantage. The Missouri Compromise, for example, was designed to maintain a balance of power.)

2. Review some of the significant events that, from 1860 to 1861, led 11 Southern states to secede from the Union. For example:
   - Compromise of 1850
   - Fugitive Slave Act
   - Publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin
   - Dred Scott Decision
   - Kansas-Nebraska Act
   - John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia

3. Discuss conflicting opinions of Abraham Lincoln during the war. Ask students: Did most Northerners and Southerners feel the same way about the President? What was the Emancipation Proclamation? How did it affect peoples' feelings towards Lincoln? How did it change the war? Help students understand that the Confederates were angered by this edict to abolish slavery, believing it would ruin the Southern economy. The Emancipation Proclamation also shifted the emphasis of the war from keeping the nation together to a struggle to free the slaves.

4. In the video, students learned about several assassination attempts on Lincoln's life. Ask: Why would people want to kill the president? (They believed that removing Lincoln from power would leave the Union weak and help the South win the war.)

5. Explain that students will read and analyze a famous speech or writing by Lincoln to better understand his views. Either assign or have them choose one of the following:
6. To help students with historical context, remind them that the war began April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and that it ended on April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. For other important dates, direct them to this online Civil War Timeline: [http://www.historyplace.com/civilwar/index.html](http://www.historyplace.com/civilwar/index.html).

7. Once students have read through their speech or writing, ask them to write a brief essay that addresses the following.
   - When did Lincoln make this speech or present this writing?
   - Briefly summarize Lincoln's message.
   - Describe the tone or language he used, giving at least one significant quote as an example.
   - How do you think most Northerners and most Southerners responded to the speech or writing? Why?
   - What reaction do you imagine Americans today would have to the speech or writing?
   - How do you think this speech or writing affected the Civil War?

8. During the next class period, give students an opportunity to share their essays. Then discuss their ideas and findings. Ask: What impact did the speeches and writings have on the Civil War? In what ways did the responses differ between the North and South? How do most Americans respond to Lincoln's words today?

### Evaluation

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

- **Three points:** Students were active in class discussions; demonstrated a strong understanding of differences between the North and South, significant events leading to the Civil War, and conflicting opinions about Abraham Lincoln; wrote a thorough, engaging essay about Lincoln's speech or writing.
- **Two points:** Students participated in class discussions; demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of differences between the North and South, significant events leading to the Civil War, and conflicting opinions about Abraham Lincoln; wrote a clear, complete essay about Lincoln's speech or writing.
- **One point:** Students did not participate in class discussions; demonstrated a weak understanding of differences between the North and South, significant events leading to the Civil War, and conflicting opinions about Abraham Lincoln; wrote a vague or inaccurate essay about Lincoln's speech or writing.

### Standards

**Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)**

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit [http://www.mcrel.org/](http://www.mcrel.org/).

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- U.S. History: Era 5-Understands the causes of the Civil War; Understands the course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people.
National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)
The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has developed national standards to provide guidelines for teaching social studies. To view the standards online, go to http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands/.
This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption

http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/civilWarDivided/