

# The Artios Home Companion Series

## Unit 2: Prelude to the Civil War, Part Two

### Teacher Overview

*Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States but he came from very humble beginnings. It was his character, developed from a young age that enabled him to be used in such a significant way in the history of our country.*



President Abraham Lincoln

### Key People and Events

Thomas Lincoln  
Abraham Lincoln

### Leading Ideas

**Honesty is a character quality to be desired.**

*The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.*  
— Proverbs 20:23

**The Bible provides the ethics upon which to judge people and nations.**

— Exodus 20:1-17

### Reading and Assignments

Based on your student's age and ability, the reading in this unit may be read aloud to the student and journaling and notebook pages may be completed orally. Likewise, other assignments can be done with an appropriate combination of independent and guided study.

In this unit, students will:

- Complete two lessons in which they will learn about **the early life of Abraham Lincoln**.
- Create a notebook page about Abraham Lincoln. This could be drawings or narration.
- Read selected chapters from *Freedom Train: Story of Harriet Tubman*.
- Learn about **Commas: Items in a Series** and complete corresponding grammar exercises.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

**God is sovereign over the affairs of men.**

*From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.*

— Acts 17:26

# Literature, Composition, and Grammar

## *Freedom Train: Story of Harriet Tubman*

by Dorothy Sterling

Literature for Units 1 - 4

### Unit 2 - Assignments

#### Literature

- Read Chapters 6 - 10 of *Freedom Train: Story of Harriet Tubman* or from “Bound for the Promised Land” through “Why Not Every Man?”

As you are reading this week, focus your discussions on the following question: What character traits do you see emerging in Harriet? How do you feel about the way white society and laws treated African Americans?

#### Composition

- Now that you have written a brief bio about yourself, use the Editing Checklist found among the resources to help you edit your writing with the help of a parent or teacher. You’ll also want to learn about the Editing Marks, also available within the Resources, to help your editing be well-organized.
- Write or type the final draft of your bio. Then, find a picture of yourself. Attach your picture and your bio to a piece of black posterboard, roughly 10 1/2" by 13". Add some embellishments to your “Bio Board” if you’d like!

#### Grammar

- Read the notes on **Commas: Items in a Series**, beginning on page 2.
- Complete the corresponding grammar exercises on the **Artios Home Companion** website.
- Add “*items in a series*” to your “cheat sheet.”

## Grammar Notes for Unit 2

Used by permission: [www.analyticalgrammar.com](http://www.analyticalgrammar.com)

### Commas: Items in a Series

Each of our comma rules will have a “buzzword” that we’ll use to refer to it. Our first rule is “items in a series.”

#### COMMA RULE #1:

**Buzzword: Items in a Series**

Use commas in between items in a list or series. These can be individual words or prepositional phrases, but the list should always be made of grammatical equals (all nouns, all verbs, all prepositional phrases, etc.) You will put a comma between each item and before the conjunction that will come before the last item.

EXAMPLES (these are only a few examples, there are a lot of other ways to list things):

**Nouns:**

I brought my ball, bat, mitt, and hat to the baseball game.

**Verbs:**

I walked, ran, hopped, and jumped to get my exercise in today.

**Adjectives:**

She was tall, slim, and beautiful.

**Prepositional Phrases:**

We looked in the kitchen, around the dining room table, and on top of the fridge for the artwork my sister made.

**Nouns and prepositional phrases:**

My chore list says to put the dishes in the dishwasher, the glasses in the cabinet, and the trash in the trashcan.

**Verbs and prepositional phrases:**

Little red riding hood walked through the woods, skipped down the lane, and entered her grandmother's house.

**NOTE:** If all the items are separated by "and" or "or," do not use commas to separate them.  
**EXAMPLE:** I bought a teddy bear and a necklace and a new shirt.

**NOTE:** The comma before the last item (usually before the conjunction) is sometimes called the auxiliary or Oxford comma. Some people are taught that it can be left out. Not us! You can confuse people by leaving it out, so we always include it.  
**EXAMPLE:** On my desk I have pictures of my parents, Spot and Whiskers.

Are you giggling? I would be! It makes it seem that Spot and Whiskers are the speaker's parents. Now put the auxiliary comma in.

**EXAMPLE:** On my desk I have pictures of my parents, Spot, and Whiskers.

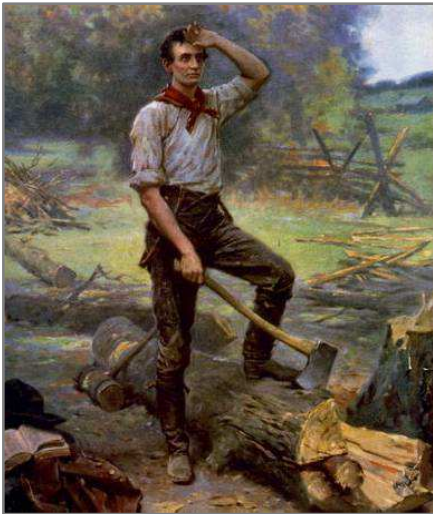
NOW I get it! Those are three separate pictures!

**HERE'S A TRICK:** If you read the sentences above out loud, just the way you'd say them in real life, your voice will pause right where the commas go. So if you have to put commas in a sentence where we've left the commas out on purpose, read the sentence out loud first, and your voice will tell you where they go!

# Lesson One

## History Overview and Assignments Lincoln's Early Life

*Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12th, 1809, in a log shanty on a Kentucky farm. Although poor, Abraham Lincoln was determined to learn and spent many hours learning through reading and writing on his own.*



Young Abraham Lincoln

Either way, be sure to include the answers to the discussion questions and an overview of key people, dates, and events in your summary.

- Create a notebook page about Abraham Lincoln. Include details about his life. You can write, draw or orally narrate in order to create this page.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Discussion Questions

1. Who was the tall man in Congress from Illinois?
2. What did the people of his state like to call him? Why?
3. When was Abraham Lincoln born? Where was he born?
4. To what state did his father move?
5. Tell about “Abe’s” new home. Tell about the new cabin and its furniture. Tell about “Abe’s” bed.
6. What was Abraham Lincoln’s first great sorrow?
7. What did Abraham Lincoln say about his mother?
8. How did Abraham Lincoln teach himself?
9. What books did he read?
10. How did he practice math and writing?

### Key People and Events

Thomas Lincoln  
Abraham Lincoln

### Reading and Assignments

- Read the article: *Abraham Lincoln, Part One*, pages 5-7.
- After reading the article, summarize the story you read by either:
  - Retelling it out loud to your teacher or parent.  
OR
  - Completing an appropriate notebook page.

Adapted from the book:

## *The Beginner's American History*

by D. H. Montgomery

### *Abraham Lincoln, Part One*

(1809-1865)

#### **The tall man from Illinois making his first speech in Congress; how he wrote his name; what the people called him**

Not many days before gold was found at Sutter's sawmill in California (in 1848), a tall, awkward-looking man from Illinois made his first speech in Congress. At that time he generally wrote his name:



But after he became President of the United States, he often wrote it out in full:



The plain country people of Illinois, who knew all about him, liked best to call him by the title they had first given him—“*Honest Abe Lincoln*,” or, for short, “*Honest Abe*.” Let's see how he got that name.

#### **The Lincoln family moves to Indiana; “Abe” helps his father build a new home; what it was like**

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12th, 1809, in a log shanty on a lonely little farm in Kentucky.<sup>1</sup> He was the second child of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln. When “Abe,” as he was called, was seven years

old, his father moved the family to Indiana;<sup>2</sup> there the boy and his mother and sister worked in the woods and helped him build a new home. That new home was not as good or comfortable as some of our cow sheds are. It was simply a hut made of rough logs and limbs of trees. It had no door and no windows. One side of it was left entirely open, and if a roving native or bear wanted to walk in to have dinner, there was nothing whatever to stop him. In winter “Abe's” mother used to hang up some buffalo skins before this wide entrance to keep out the cold, but in summer the skins were taken down, so that living in such a cabin was the closest thing to living out-of-doors.

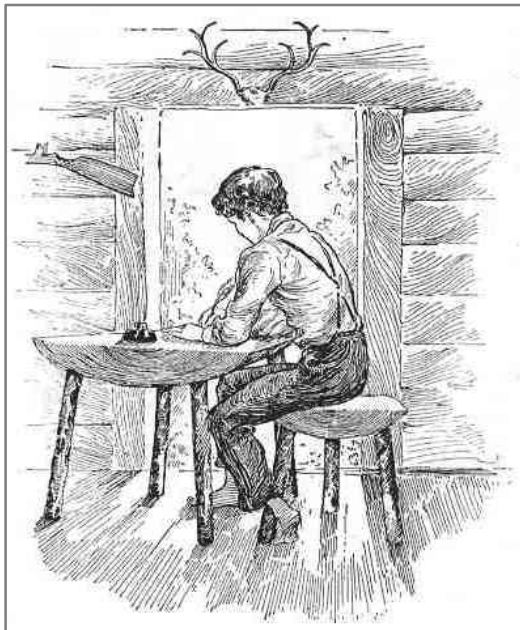


“Abe” learning to use his axe

**The new log cabin with four sides to it; how the furniture was made; “Abe’s” bed in the loft**

The Lincoln family stayed in that cabin for about a year; then they moved into a new log cabin which had four sides to it. They seem to have made a new set of furniture for the new house. “Abe’s” father got a large log, split it in two, smoothed off the flat side, bored holes in the underside, and drove in four stout sticks for legs: that made the table. They had no chairs—it would have been too much trouble to make the backs—but they had three-legged stools, which Thomas Lincoln made with an axe, just as he did the table; perhaps “Abe” helped him drive in the legs.

In one corner of the loft of this cabin the boy had a big bag of dry leaves for his bed. Whenever he felt like having a new bed, all he had to do was go out in the woods and gather more leaves.



Home-made furniture

He worked about the place during the day, helping his father, mother, and older

sister, Sarah. For his supper he had a piece of cornbread. After he had eaten it, he climbed up to his loft in the dark, by a kind of ladder of wooden pins driven into the logs. Five minutes after that he was fast asleep on his bed of sweet-smelling leaves and was dreaming of hunting coons, or of building big bonfires out of bushes and tree limbs.

**Death of “Abe’s” mother; the lonely grave in the woods; what Abraham Lincoln said of his mother after he had grown to be a man; what “Abe’s” new mother said of him**

“Abe’s” mother was not strong, and before they had been in their new log cabin a year she fell sick and died. She was buried on the farm. “Abe” used to go out and sit by her lonely grave in the forest and cry. It was the first great sorrow that had ever touched the boy’s heart. After he had grown to be a man, he said with eyes full of tears to a friend with whom he was talking: “God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her.”

At the end of a year Thomas Lincoln married again. The new wife that he brought home was a kind-hearted and excellent woman. She did all she could to make the poor, ragged, barefooted boy happy. After he had grown up and become famous, she said: “Abe never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused to do anything I asked him: Abe was the best boy I ever saw.”

**The school in the woods; the new teacher; reading by the open fire; how “Abe” used the fire-shovel**

There was a log schoolhouse in the woods quite a distance off, and there “Abe”

went for a short time. At the school he learned to read and write a little, but after a while he found a new teacher, that was—himself. When the rest of the family had gone to bed, he would sit up and read his favorite books by the light of the great blazing logs heaped up on the open fire. He had not more than half a dozen books in all. They were “Robinson Crusoe,” “Pilgrim’s Progress,” Æsop’s Fables<sup>3</sup>, the Bible, a Life of Washington, and a small History of the United States. The boy read these books over and over till he knew a great deal of them by heart and could repeat whole pages from them.

Part of his evenings he spent in writing and ciphering. Thomas Lincoln was so poor that he could seldom afford to buy paper and pens for his son, so the boy had to get on without them. He used to take the back of the broad wooden fire-shovel to write on and a piece of charcoal for a pencil. When he had covered the shovel with words or with sums in arithmetic, he would shave it off clean and begin over again. If “Abe’s” father complained that the shovel was getting thin, the boy would go out into the woods, cut down a tree, and make a new one; for as long as the woods lasted, fire-shovels and furniture were cheap.



Abe reading by firelight

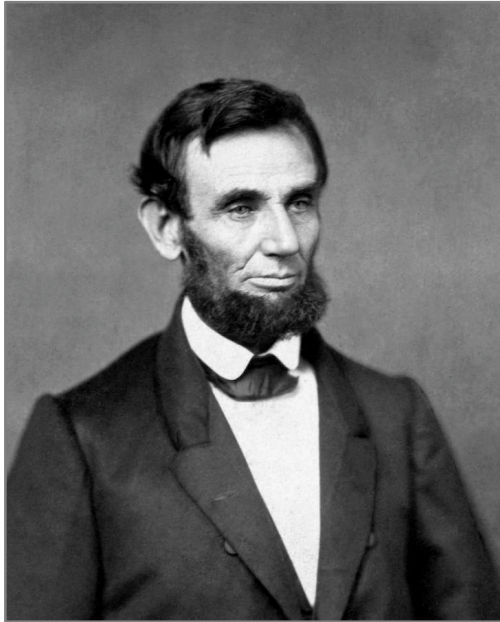
### Footnotes:

- 1 - Kentucky: Abraham Lincoln was born on the banks of the Big South Fork (or branch) of Nolin Creek in Hardin (now La Rue) County, Kentucky.
  - 2 - Indiana: the Lincoln family moved to a farm on Little Pigeon Creek, near Gentryville, in what is now Spencer County, Indiana.
  - 3 - Æsop (E'sop): the name of a noted writer of fables. Here is one of Æsop's fables: An old frog thought that he could blow himself up to be as big as an ox. So he drew in his breath and puffed himself out prodigiously. "Am I big enough now?" he asked his son. "No," said his son; "you don't begin to be as big as an ox yet." Then he tried again, and swelled himself out still more. "How's that?" he asked. "Oh, it's no use trying," said his son, "you can't do it." "But I will," said the old frog. With that he drew in his breath with all his might and puffed himself up to such an enormous size that he suddenly burst.
- Moral: Don't try to be bigger than you can.

## Lesson Two

### History Overview and Assignments Lincoln's Teenage Years

Abraham Lincoln moved with his family to the state of Illinois where he continued to learn, grow and develop strong character. He spent his days hunting and chopping wood and his nights reading and practicing his writing. He learned to be faithful even in the little things and because of his honesty, he came to be called Honest Abe.



A Salt Print of Abraham Lincoln as President

#### Reading and Assignments

- Read the article: *Abraham Lincoln, Part Two*, pages 9-11.
  - After reading the article, summarize the story you read by either:
    - Retelling it out loud to your teacher or parent.OR
    - Completing an appropriate notebook page.
- Either way, be sure to include the answers to the discussion questions and an overview of key people, dates, and events in your summary.
- Continue to add to our notebook pages on Abraham Lincoln by drawing or narrating.
  - Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

#### Key People and Events

Thomas Lincoln  
Abraham Lincoln

#### Discussion Questions

1. How tall was Abraham Lincoln at the age of 19?
2. What state did Lincoln's family move to?
3. In what type of hunting frolics did Abraham Lincoln and his friends and family participate?
4. What kind of bargain did Lincoln make for a new pair of trousers?
5. Describe how Lincoln got the nickname Honest Abe.



Adapted from the book:

## ***The Beginner's American History***

by D. H. Montgomery

### ***Abraham Lincoln, Part Two***

#### **What Lincoln could do at seventeen; what he was at nineteen; his strength**

By the time the lad was seventeen he could write a good hand, do hard examples in long division, and spell better than anyone else in the county. Once in a while he wrote a little piece of his own about something which interested him; when the neighbors heard it read, they would say, "The world can't beat it."

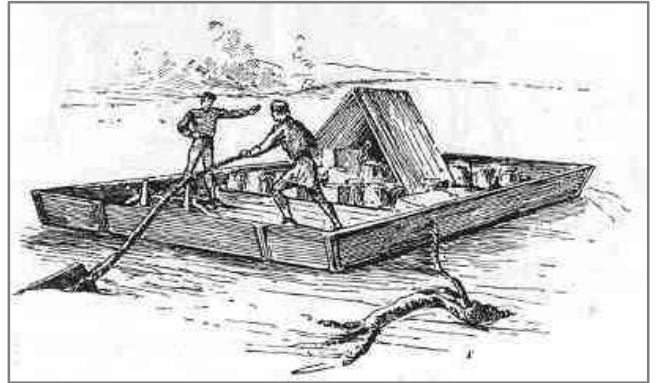
At nineteen Abraham Lincoln had reached his full height. He stood nearly six feet four inches, barefooted. He was a kind of good-natured giant. No one in the neighborhood could strike an axe as deep into a tree as he could, and few, if any, were equal to him in strength. It takes a powerful man to put a barrel of flour into a wagon without help, and there is not one in a hundred who can lift a barrel of cider off the ground; but it is said that young Lincoln could stoop down, lift a barrel on to his knees, and drink from the bung-hole.

#### **Young Lincoln makes a voyage to New Orleans; how he handled the robbers**

At this time a neighbor hired Abraham to go with his son to New Orleans. The two young men were to take a flat-boat loaded with corn and other produce down the Ohio and the Mississippi. It was a voyage of about eighteen hundred miles, and it would take between three and four weeks.

Young Lincoln was greatly pleased with the thought of making such a trip. He had never been away any distance from home,

and, as he told his father, he felt that he wanted to see something more of the world. His father made no objection, but, as he bade his son goodbye, he said, Take care that in trying to see the world you don't see the bottom of the Mississippi.



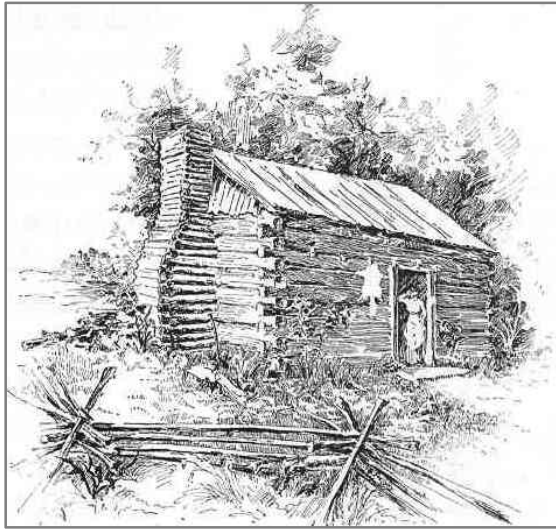
Lincoln on the flat-boat going  
down the Mississippi River

The two young men managed to get the boat through safely. But one night a gang of African American men came on board, intending to rob them of part of their cargo. Lincoln soon showed the robbers he could handle a club as vigorously as he could an axe, and the rascals, bruised and bleeding, were glad to get away with their lives.

#### **The Lincolns move to Illinois; what Abraham did; hunting frolics; how Abraham chopped; how he bought his clothes**

Not long after young Lincoln's return, his father moved the family to Illinois.<sup>1</sup> It was a two weeks' journey through the woods with ox-teams. Abraham helped his father build a comfortable log cabin; then

he and a man named John Hanks split walnut rails and fenced in fifteen acres of land for a cornfield.



The log cabin in Illinois which Lincoln helped his father build

That part of the country had but few settlers, and it was still full of wild beasts. When the men got tired of work and wanted to frolic, they had a grand wolf-hunt. First, a tall pole was set up in a clearing;<sup>2</sup> next, the hunters in the woods formed a great circle of perhaps ten miles in extent. Then they began to move nearer and nearer together, beating the bushes and yelling with all their might. The frightened wolves, deer, and other wild creatures inside of the circle of hunters were driven to the pole in the clearing; there they were shot down in heaps.

Young Lincoln was not much of a hunter, but he always tried to do his part. Yet, after all, he liked the axe better than he did the rifle. He would start off before light in the morning and walk to his work in the woods, five or six miles away. There he would chop steadily all day. The neighbors knew, when they hired him that he wouldn't sit down on the first log he came to and fall asleep. Once when he needed a

new pair of trousers, he made a bargain for them with a Mrs. Nancy Miller. She agreed to make him a certain number of yards of tow cloth,<sup>3</sup> and dye it brown with walnut bark. For every yard she made, Lincoln bound himself to split four hundred good fence-rails for her. In this way he made his axe pay for all his clothes.



Lincoln splitting logs for rails

### **Lincoln hires out to tend store; the gang of ruffians in New Salem; Jack Armstrong and "Tall Abe"**

The year after young Lincoln came of age he hired out to tend a grocery and variety store in New Salem, Illinois.<sup>4</sup> There was a gang of young ruffians in that neighborhood who made it a point to pick a fight with every stranger. Sometimes they mauled him black and blue; sometimes they amused themselves with nailing him up in a hogshead and rolling him down a hill. The leader of this gang was a fellow named Jack Armstrong. He made up his mind that he would try his hand on "Tall

Abe,” as Lincoln was called. He attacked Lincoln, and he was so astonished at Lincoln’s strength and wrestling prowess that he never wanted to try it again. From that time Abraham Lincoln had no better friends than young Armstrong and the Armstrong family. Later on we shall see what he was able to do for them.

**Lincoln’s faithfulness in little things;  
the six cents; “Honest Abe”**

In his work in the store Lincoln soon won everybody’s respect and confidence. He was faithful in little things, and in that

way he made himself able to deal with great ones.

Once a woman made a mistake in paying for something she had bought and gave the young man six cents too much. He did not notice it at the time, but after his customer had gone he saw that she had overpaid him. That night, after the store was closed, Lincoln walked to the woman’s house, some five or six miles out of the village, and paid her back the six cents. It was such things as this that first made the people give him the name of “Honest Abe.”

**Footnotes:**

- 1 - Illinois: he moved to a farm on the North Fork (or branch) of the Sangamon River, Macon County, Illinois. Springfield, the capital of the state, is in the next county west.
- 2 - Clearing: an open space made in a forest.
- 3 - Tow cloth: a kind of coarse, cheap, but very strong cloth, made of flax or hemp.
- 4 - New Salem is on the Sangamon River, in Menard County, about twenty miles northwest of Springfield, the capital of Illinois.