

## Lesson Introduction

Most people tend to think that Lincoln lived, or even our current president lives, a life completely different from our own. Although, that is true in many ways, the president is still an ordinary individual with his or her own likes and dislikes. President Lincoln has been elevated to an almost super-human status in U.S. History; however, by looking at the contents of his pockets on the night of his assassination, observers see his human side. Students then use this as a springboard to discuss and think about the current president in humanizing terms.

## Lesson Objective

Students will draw conclusions about Lincoln based on the contents in his pocket at his death, and then relate that to the current president.

## Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

## Guiding Questions for Students:

1. What contents do you think the President of the United States carries around in his pocket today? What do you think people say about him as a person and a president?
2. What contents do you think Abraham Lincoln had in his pockets on the night of April 14, 1865, when John Wilkes Booth assassinated him at Ford's Theater?

# Lesson Agenda

## Podcast

Listen to the Assassination of Lincoln podcast.

(<https://soundcloud.com/global-travel-alliance/fordstheatermaster/s-vxU6f>)

## Website

Explore the website that displays the objects of Lincoln's pockets at the time of his death:

([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/lincoln/aa\\_lincoln\\_pocket\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/lincoln/aa_lincoln_pocket_1.html)).

## Worksheet

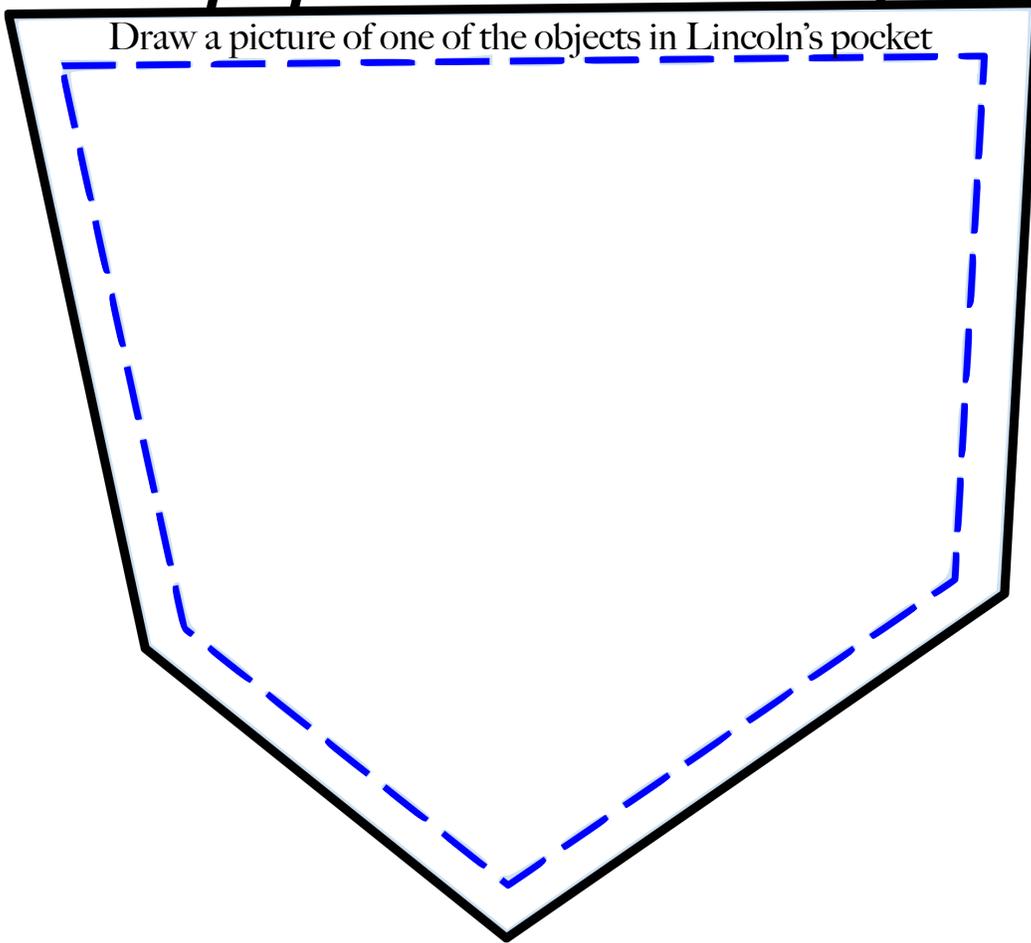
Select one object that stands out to you, first draw the object, then explain its historical significance and what it might say about Lincoln as a man rather than just the President of the United States.

## Lesson Reflection

Independent Journal Entry - How does the media often present a president in an inhuman way? Why do we often forget that Presidents have personal lives? Think back on the American Presidents from the past 10 years. How were they portrayed to the American public?

# Lincoln's Pocket

Draw a picture of one of the objects in Lincoln's pocket



How is the object you chose historically significant?

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What does it say about Lincoln as a man rather than just the President of the United States?

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