Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza Worksheet

Directions: The Lincoln Plaza has eight triangular pillars bearing information about significant experiences in Lincoln’s life during his years in Indiana and their influence on his presidency.

- Read the biographical information that is on each of the pillars.
- Fill in the blanks of the quotes, and answer the question(s). The * questions highlight the key ways that Lincoln’s years in Indiana shaped the man he became.
- Then, in the triangle, write key words or phrases (such as family moved or read books) that come from that pillar.

“A(braham) though very ________________, was ____________ of his age, and had an ______axe__________ put into his hands at once.” Abraham Lincoln in 1860

- How old was Lincoln when he moved from Kentucky to Indiana?
- What was the land like when they moved to Indiana?
- *What value did he learn through working the land?

“All that I am, or ______________ __________ ____________, I owe to my ______________ ________________.” Abraham Lincoln

- How did Lincoln feel about his stepmother?
- *What were some ways both Nancy Hanks Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln shaped who Lincoln became?

“I view [________________________] as the most __________________ subject which we as a people can be ________________ in.” Abraham Lincoln in 1832

- Even though he did attend several schools, how much time total did Lincoln’s schooling amount to?
- What were three books Lincoln read?
- *Lincoln was primarily self-taught. What does that tell you about the value he placed on education?
“His _______________ & the _______________ of the man soared above us.” Nathaniel Grigsby in 1865

- In what ways did Nathaniel Grigsby describe Lincoln as being “above” all the other boys?

*What were three characteristics Lincoln attained through his years in Indiana?

“... while _______________ and opportunity gave him _______________ and great success at _______________ and extemporaneous _______________, he learned to _______________ --learned to appreciate the value of the pen.” John G. Nicolay in 1894

- Where did Lincoln get his material to share with his friends?

- What did Lincoln use as president to ease tense moments or make a point?

* In Indiana, Lincoln came to understand the power of the _______________ _______________.

“In this sad world of ours, _______________ comes to all; and, to the _______________, it comes with bitterest _______________. . . . I have had _______________ enough to know what I say.” Abraham Lincoln in 1862

- List the two close family members who died when Lincoln lived in Indiana and how they died.

*What did Lincoln learn through his experiences of loss? How did that help him as president?
“When (Lincoln) was __________________ . . . he made his first trip upon a flat-boat to _______________ _______________________.” Abraham Lincoln in 1860

- What job did Lincoln have away from the family farm?

*What did he see on his trip to New Orleans that impacted him forever?

“ . . . I have no other [__________________] so great as that of being truly _________________________ of my fellow men, by ____________________ myself worthy of their esteem.” Abraham Lincoln in 1832

- After moving to Illinois, Lincoln became a ________________, served _______________ terms in the Illinois Legislature, and _____________ term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

- Lincoln said, “If slavery is __________ _______________, ____________________________ is wrong.”

* How did his experiences in Indiana lead to his political career?

**Math Skills:** Using the information about the memorial, complete the following math problems.

- The largest stone weighs 3,400 lbs.
- The 8 pillars weigh 1,700 lbs.
- The pillars match Lincoln’s adult height of 6’4”.
- There are 94 pieces of stone in the memorial.
- The plaza is 58 feet in diameter.

1. What is the area of the plaza?

2. What is the average weight each pillar?

3. The largest stone weighs how many tons?

4. What would be the total height of the 8 pillars?
Final Application: In the center of the Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza is the quote, “The child is the father of the man”. This quote comes from a poem written by William Wordsworth, and it is the theme of the plaza. Please answer the following questions about this quote and theme.

1. What does this quote mean? How can a child be the father of a man, or in other words, how can who a child is influence who he/she becomes as an adult? Give specific examples.

2. This quote was chosen as the theme of a memorial to a man who only lived in Indiana from the age 7 through 21 years old. Why would this quote be chosen for this memorial? What point does it make about the importance of Lincoln’s years in Indiana?

3. Provide at least 3 specific examples of how the “child” Lincoln gained knowledge or experiences in Indiana that led to the “man” Lincoln.