



Sharing World Stories - American stories that begin in Norfolk If I were President? : Linkin' Lincoln and Norfolk

A children's activity template prepared as part of the Norfolk's American Connections project (www.norfolksamericanconnections.com) by the Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich.

If you have any questions or queries please phone 01603 774747 or email 2admemorial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk .

Aims and objectives...

Children will learn about the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln, and his family connections to Norfolk. They will develop their writing and presentation skills (deciding what laws they would make if they were president), and make an American flag.

1 - 1.5 hours
20 children maximum with 2 adult supervisors
(OR 1 adult supervisor per 10 children)
Ages 7 and up

Suggested story books...

Doreen Cronin: Duck for President
Kathleen Krull: Lincoln tells a joke – how laughter saved the President
Martha Brenner: Abe Lincoln's hat

Craft materials required...

Flag materials needed per child:

- 1 sheet white paper / thin card (A3)
- 7 pre-cut red paper stripes (length of A3 paper x 2.3cm wide)
- 1 pre-cut blue paper square (16cm x 16cm)
- 50 star stickers (silver)

Flag materials needed to share:

- Several glue sticks
- Several silver glitter sticks (if not using stickers)

Proclamation materials needed per child:

- 1 large sheet “parchment” looking paper
- 1 black felt marker
- Pre cut lengths of (red) wool or tape to tie up scrolls

Other resources (optional)...

- A large picture of Abraham Lincoln to show the children. (The 2nd Air Division Memorial Library has large laminated poster available for loan. Please phone 01603 774747 or email 2admemoial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk if you'd like to borrow this.)
- A map of Norfolk to show the children Hingham and Swanton Morley.

Historical Background : The Norfolk Connection....

Abraham Lincoln:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/abrahamlincoln/>

Abraham Lincoln:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/lincoln_abraham.shtml

Abraham Lincoln and Norfolk:

http://www.2ndair.org.uk/Discover_America/Norfolk_and_America

Abraham Lincoln's ancestors and Swanton Morley:

<http://norfolksamericanconnections.com/places-q-z/swanton-morley-2>

<http://www.theangelpub.co.uk>

<http://swantonmorleychurch.co.uk>

Abraham Lincoln's ancestors and Hingham:

<http://norfolksamericanconnections.com/places-h-p/hingham>

Richard Lincoln, ancestor of Abraham Lincoln was churchwarden at All Saint's Church Swanton Morley from 1599 to 1620. His former home is now “The Angel” Inn. In 1615 he changed his will, effectively disinheriting his son Edward, who moved to the nearby village of Hingham. Three of Edward's sons (including Samuel, ancestor of the American President Abraham Lincoln) left Hingham in 1637 with other villagers, emigrating to America where they helped found the town of Hingham in Norfolk County (now Plymouth County), Massachusetts.

Samuel Lincoln, ancestor of the American President Abraham Lincoln was baptised at Hingham Church. Apprenticed to Frances Lawes, a Norwich weaver, he sailed from Great Yarmouth in 1637, to settle in Hingham Massachusetts. St Andrew's Church in Hingham has a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln on the wall – a gift from members of the Lincoln family in the US, unveiled by the American Ambassador in 1919.

Advance preparation...

- 1) Cut 2.3cm wide strips from A3 sheets of red paper / thin card (7 strips per flag)
- 2) Cut 16cm squares from blue paper / thin card
- 3) Cut lengths of (red) wool or tape to tie up scrolls
- 4) (Optional) Make a flag in advance to have as example, and print out some copies of the instructions for the children and adult helpers.
- 5) Familiarise yourself with the historical links Abraham Lincoln has with Norfolk (see historical background section on previous page).
- 6) NB. You will need to know the names of the current UK Prime Minister and US President.

Running the activity...

This is a suggested script for this activity, which you may wish to use as a guide or starting point. It can be freely adapted, but please share with the children the historical links between Abraham Lincoln and Norfolk (see historical background section on previous page).

1. Welcome to "If I were President". Today we will share some stories about American President Abraham Lincoln [show picture] and a silly story called *Duck for President*. Then we will try writing our own Presidential proclamations and make our own American flags!
2. Now, in the United Kingdom, there isn't a President. What is our leader called instead? (There might be some confusion here re: Her Majesty) Do you know who the Prime Minister is today? The Prime Minister has to make big decisions every day, to make England better for everyone who lives here.
3. But in the United States, there is a President. Do you know who the American President is today?
4. Do any of you already know about President Abraham Lincoln? He was President a long time ago, in the 1800s, and he's very famous for ending slavery in North America. Read one or more of the Abraham Lincoln stories.
5. Do any of you know what the connection is between President Abraham Lincoln and Norfolk? I wonder if any of you have heard of or been to the village of Hingham? It is a town very close to Norwich, and one of Abraham Lincoln's relatives sailed from Hingham, Norfolk, to America in 1637. That means that if Abraham had written down his family's history, he would have mentioned this part of the world, where we live!

6. Now I will read you the story of a very different American President. This is a made-up silly story about a duck becoming President. Read *Duck for President*.
7. Whether they are a human or a duck, a President must care about his people and their lives. Abraham Lincoln knew what was wrong with his country and had some big ideas about how to make it better, and it really ended up changing people's lives forever.
8. Now, let's pretend that you are in charge of England. What are some of the changes you would like to make? I am going to give each of you a piece of official parchment paper that you can use to write your own speech about England, and how you plan to make it better. Then, you can take turns reading your speech to the group, just like the Prime Minister or President does! I will show you how to roll up and seal your speech so it looks very official. Before we start on the speeches though, we're going to make an American flag.
9. Pass out flag craft materials and assist the children in making flags (see instructions on next page – you might want to print some of these out for the children to see, or make up a flag in advance as an example)
10. Once the flags are made, hand out the parchment paper and italic marker pens, help the children to think about and write out their "proclamations" on the "parchment" paper. Once written they can be rolled up and tied up into a scroll with wool or tape.
11. Encourage the children to read out their laws / proclamations to each other. "Let's begin the speeches! Who would like to go first?" (etc.)

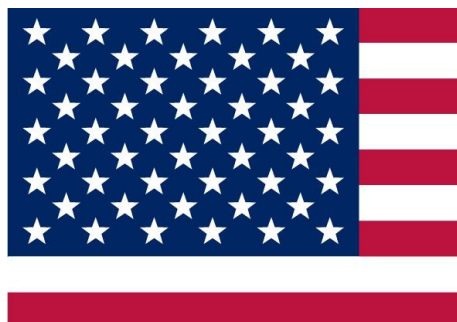
AMERICAN FLAG MAKING INSTRUCTIONS

The flag of the United States of America is often called "Stars and Stripes". There are 13 red and white stripes in the flag of the USA. These 13 stripes (seven red and six white ones) represent the former Thirteen Colonies. On 4th July 1776 these colonies became independent of Great Britain (Declaration of Independence). There are 50 stars in the blue rectangle on top left of the flag. These stars represent the 50 federal states. This has been the official flag since Hawaii became a member of the Union on 21 August 1959. Older flags contain fewer stars depending on how many states belonged to the Union.

This is a photograph of the flag you are going to make....



1. Lay out your sheet of white paper and space the 7 red stripes as evenly as you can, and glue them across the white paper.
2. Glue the blue square to the upper left-hand corner of the flag.
3. Carefully mark the blue square with 50 "stars" using the glitter pens or the silver star stickers. If you want to be very accurate this diagram shows you how to position the stars, but you might want to make up your own pattern.



4. Put your flag somewhere safe, and wait for the glue to dry.