

# USANEWS IN BRIEF



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ISSUE 3



## Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial: 1809-2009

Abraham Lincoln defines the civic ideal of what it means to be an American.

But what more is there to learn about our 16th president? What's left to unearth? What remains relevant about a president born nearly two centuries ago?

In his Gettysburg address, Lincoln reminded what "the brave men, living and dead" did on the battlefield and challenged the living to dedicate themselves "to the unfinished work" of those men.

How much of that work is

still not completed?

Surmounting race and assuring equal rights for all are Lincoln's two major challenges still on the nation's agenda. As the embodiment of the highest ideals and values of our nation, Abraham Lincoln can still help us meet those challenges.

Through education programs, public forums, and arts projects the Bicentennial provides an opportunity to re-examine what it means to be American in the 21st century.

Two centuries after Lincoln's birth, the nation is still in formation. The United States has grown and expanded, one cost of that growth has been a splintering of many parts of our society. Competing values, interests, and beliefs, have complicated Lincoln's goal to find unity in our diversity.

The Bicentennial commemoration of his life and legacy will be a bright beacon to completing our nation's "unfinished work."

### Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph

Obama inauguration significant as African Americans honored in February



Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month

### African Americans' Struggles, Triumphs Shown in Photo Exhibition

National Museum of African American History and Culture inaugural exhibition shows U.S. history from unique perspective...

## Obama's first 100 DAYS

### President signs his first bill into law

President Obama signed his first piece of legislation, a law that eases restrictions for people wanting to sue over pay discrimination. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act removes a requirement that employees file their lawsuit within 180 days of receiving their first unfair paycheck...



### House Passes Economic Bill with Huge Boost for Education

Obama stimulus package would affect student aid, campus infrastructure, research...



### Clinton Prepares for Diplomatic Mission to Asia

"We need strong partners across the Pacific, just as we need strong partners across the Atlantic," Secretary Hillary Clinton tells the Asia Society on the eve of her first trip as secretary of state. She is travelling to Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and China.

### Obama Names Special Envoys for Middle East, Afghanistan-Pakistan

United States will renew leadership through reinvigorated diplomacy...



### Obama Pledges New American Partnership in Middle East

Fresh start for diplomacy rooted in "mutual respect and mutual interests"...



### Obama Orders Guantánamo Shut Down

America will honor its ideals in struggle against terrorism

### Obama Makes Climate Change a National Priority

U.S. technical agencies prepare to help regions understand local effects



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**NEW PENNY DESIGNS UNVEILED FOR LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL**



**THE INTERNATIONAL LEGACY**

VIRTUALLY EVERY NATION IN THE WORLD TODAY CONTAINS RECOGNITION OF THE LINCOLN LEGACY WHETHER IN THE MEMOIRS OF ITS LEADERS OR IN ITS PUBLIC CULTURE (STREETS, STATUES, POSTAGE STAMPS, ETC.). FOR EXAMPLE:

**IN CENTRAL AMERICA...**  
LINCOLN WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO GRANT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO HAITI

**IN SOUTH AMERICA...**  
LINCOLN CITY, ARGENTINA IS THE ONLY CITY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES NAMED FOR AMERICA'S 16TH PRESIDENT

**IN CANADA...**  
LINCOLNIANA COLLECTION IN THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, MONTREAL

**IN WESTERN EUROPE...**  
SAN MARINO GRANTED LINCOLN HONORARY CITIZENSHIP DURING HIS LIFETIME

**IN EASTERN EUROPE...**  
THOMAS MASARYK (1850-1937), THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ADMIRER LINCOLN, AS DOES VAACLAV HAVEL, THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**IN ASIA...**  
THE LINCOLN RESOURCE CENTER IS LOCATED IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

**IN AFRICA...**  
NELSON MANDELA KNEW OF LINCOLN'S LEGACY BEFORE SERVING A 27-YEAR IMPRISONMENT AND READ A BIOGRAPHY OF LINCOLN FOR THE FIRST TIME WHILE INCARCERATED

**IN THE MIDDLE EAST...**  
STREETS IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV ARE NAMED FOR LINCOLN

*Lincoln Bicentennial Commemorative Stamps*

**Rail Splitter.** The stamp showing Lincoln as a rail-splitter includes the earliest-known photograph of Lincoln, taken in 1846 by N. H. Shepherd, and depicts Lincoln as a youth splitting a log for a rail fence on the American frontier. When he was a candidate for President in 1860, the Republican Party used the image of Lincoln as a "rail-splitter" to enhance his appeal to the workingman.



**Lawyer.** The stamp featuring Lincoln as a lawyer includes a photograph of Lincoln,

taken May 7, 1858, by Abraham Byers, and shows Lincoln in a courtroom in Illinois, where he practiced law for nearly 25 years, riding a circuit of courthouses across Central Illinois.



**Politician.** The stamp of Lincoln as a politician includes a photograph of Lincoln, dated February 27, 1860, by Mathew Brady, and shows Lincoln debating



Stephen A. Douglas during their 1858 campaign for a U.S. Senate seat from Illinois.

**President.** The stamp featuring Lincoln as President includes a photograph of Lincoln, dated November 8, 1863, by Alexander Gardner, and depicts Lincoln conferring with generals



Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman toward the end of the Civil War.

The depiction is based on "The Peacemakers" (1868), a painting by George P. A. Healy.

*Free At Last - The U.S. Civil Rights Movement*

This book recounts how African-American slaves and their descendants struggled to win — both in law and in practice — the civil rights enjoyed by other Americans. It is a story of dignified persistence and struggle, a story that produced great heroes and heroines, and one that ultimately succeeded by forcing Americans to confront squarely

the shameful gap between their universal principles of equality and justice and the inequality, injustice, and oppression faced by millions of their fellow citizens.

[View PDF \(3.6 MB\)](#)



*Martin Luther King Inspired by 1959 Journey to India*

**Martin Luther King Inspired by 1959 Journey to India**

King's son, members of Congress, commemorate 50th anniversary with visit

"It was wonderful to be in Gandhi's land," wrote the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a few months after returning from a monthlong visit to India in 1959. "I left India more convinced than ever

before that nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom."

Barack Obama, as a senator in 2006, sits in front of his collection of inspiring photographs, including Martin Luther King and Gandhi.



Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta, both wearing garlands, are received by admirers in New Delhi, India, February 10, 1959.



### Did you Know?



Although the position of first lady is unelected and unpaid, a president's spouse has many official duties.

[Read more...](#)

The rule of law is a fundamental component of democratic society and is defined broadly as the principle that all members of society are bound by a set of clearly defined and universally accepted laws.

[Read more...](#)



Beginning in February, two spacecraft — one from the United States and one from Japan — will be orbiting the earth to measure atmospheric carbon dioxide, a major driver of global climate change.

[Read more...](#)

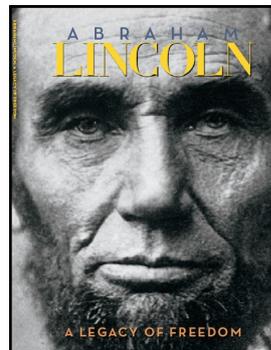
### U.S. FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA THROUGH THE YEARS



### eJournal USA / Other America.Gov Publications

#### Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom

The year 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president, and the man often considered its greatest leader. As the United States endured its greatest crisis, this self-educated common man supplied the leadership and the moral force that bound Americans together and carried them to victory. His vision spanned diplomacy and military strategy, political thought and elemental justice for all Americans --- including the African-American slaves he emancipated. The essays gathered here introduce readers to this "best and most widely acclaimed of all Americans." [Inside this publication](#)



Landmark Exhibit on Race Asks "Are We So Different?"

Interactive Web site helps foster important conversations on race

Is race real or a recent human invention? Is race about biology or culture? Who is "white"?

These and similar questions are addressed by RACE: *Are We So Different?*, a much-praised traveling exhibit and related Web site that look at the history of the idea of race, the science of human variation, and the experience of living with race and racism.

### Resources

[For Families](#) — [For Teachers](#)  
[For Researchers](#)

### Related topic:

[Michelle Obama Presents Modern Image for Black Women](#)

*Helping families find work-life balance will be one of her causes*

Every time Michelle Obama appears as first lady, the combination of her professional and domestic success challenges stereotypical media images of black women in America.

Michelle has said her primary job will be "mom-in-chief," making sure Malia and Sasha adjust well to life in the White House.

## English Teaching Corner



### For English Language Teachers

The TOEFL® test opens the door to increased success with teaching English as a second language. Students are required to integrate all 4 language skills so they can communicate their ideas and interact in real-life classroom and campus situations.

### The TOEFL® Test is the Choice of Top 100 Universities Worldwide

As students plan to study abroad, many of them will apply to the top 100 universities around the world, identified recently on the popular [www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com) website. When students do apply, they will want to take ETS's TOEFL® (*Test of English as a Foreign Language™*) test, because all of these top institutions and thousands more worldwide accept this highly respected and most widely accepted English-language admissions test.

This press release available in [Portuguese \(PDF\)](#)



**The Time of the Lincolns** a companion website to the film Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided, examines the context and conflicts surrounding the Civil War. Topics include the partisan politics of the time, the battle for abolition, the Underground Railroad, African American troops, and women's rights. The site offers soldiers' letters, newspaper articles, and other primary sources, along with a teacher's guide.

### The Word of the Day

**GNOSTIC** -(N). OF, RELATING TO, OR POSSESSING SPIRITUAL OR INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE.

## Education Statistics / Fast Facts

### Wyman Teen Outreach Program

The *Wyman Teen Outreach Program (TOP)* is a life skills curriculum for 12- to 17-year-olds that aims to prevent negative youth behaviors, such as school failure and early pregnancy.

Download, view and print the report as a pdf file. (78KB)

### How does achievement of American students compare to students in other countries?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a system of international assessments that measures 15-year-olds' performance in reading literacy, mathematics literacy, and science literacy every 3 years. PISA was first implemented in 2000.

### What educational associations exist in the U.S.?

The U.S. Department of Education's [Education Resource Organizations Directory](#) provides a comprehensive list of educational organizations and associations and their Internet addresses. Listed below are links to other directories and web sites that offer information on a wide range of education-related topics.

### The Quote of the Month

INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB."- JACK LONDON

## More Resources for Students and Teachers...



The U. S. Department of State sponsors the "Doors to Diplomacy" educational challenge - to encourage **middle school and high school students around the world** to produce web projects that teach others about the importance of inter-

**national affairs and diplomacy.** There are four components to the Doors to Diplomacy challenge...

**Doors to Diplomacy Project Registration Is Now Open!**

**Thursday, 16 October, '08 - Saturday, 28 February, '09**  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

Registration is closed after Saturday, 28 February, '09 (11:59 P.M. UTC-8 U.S. Pacific).

**Register your school for Doors to Diplomacy as soon as possible.**

## Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to: [reflisbon@state.gov](mailto:reflisbon@state.gov)

### Capacity Planning for Broadband in Public Libraries: Issues and Strategies

John Carlo Bertot. **Library Technology Reports**. Chicago: Jan 2009. Vol. 45, Iss. 1; p. 38 (7 pages)

The current context of public library public access technology provision is paradoxical. On the one hand, libraries continue to offer a substantial number of public access services- workstations, licensed resources, training programs, digital reference, and wireless access, to name a few. On the other hand, public librar-

wireless access, to name a few. On the other hand, public libraries are clearly compromised in their ability to continue enhancing the services they offer.

### Social Libraries: The Next Generation of Knowledge Management

Phillip Green. **Information Outlook**. Washington: Dec 2008. Vol. 12, Iss. 12; p. 10 (5 pages)

What remains unclear is what form the library of the future will take, and which tools librarians and information resource professionals will be using to best achieve their organization's objectives.

In fact, when used in isolation, blogs and wikis exacerbate data management problems by creating additional silos of information that are not aligned with the core knowledge repository .

### Serving in Tough Times

Francine Fialkoff. **Library Journal**. New York: Oct 15, 2008. Vol. 133, Iss. 17; p. 8 (1 page)

Library use goes up in hard times. The number of Americans who rely on libraries to deliver on the promise of free, accessible education, information, and entertainment can only increase. Despite the hard times, librarians must continue to tell the library story to constituents and funders so that libraries remain a priority.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS RELEASES REPORT ON FIRST LONGITUDINAL SURVEY

THE SURVEY SCHOOL LIBRARIES COUNT! IS THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S FIRST LONGITUDINAL SURVEY, WHICH GATHERED DATA ON CHANGES IN THE FIELD IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, SUCH AS LIBRARY STAFF, COLLECTIONS, TECHNOLOGY, CLASS VISITS, AND BUDGETS, TO DEVELOP TOOLS TO HELP TEACHER-LIBRARIANS ADVOCATE AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVEL. TO READ THE 2007 REPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 2008 SURVEY, VISIT [WWW.ALA.ORG/ALA/AASL/SLCSURVEY.CFRN](http://WWW.ALA.ORG/ALA/AASL/SLCSURVEY.CFRN).

## American Library Association News - International Book Fairs 2009

### Bologna Book Fair - March 23-26, 2009

The only international marketplace exclusively for children's material.



### BookExpo America - New York, NY May 29-31, 2009

BookExpo America is the largest English language book show with more than 2,000 exhibits, 500 authors.



### 16th Beijing International Book Fair

Beijing, China  
September 3-7, 2009



### The London Book Fair - April 20-22, 2009

London Book Fair is the leading spring forum for publishers, and librarian buyers worldwide.



### The Frankfurt Book Fair - October 14-18, 2009

The largest Book Fair in the world. Reach all areas of the publishing industry from over 100 countries.



Break into the Asian marketplace in the largest and fastest growing market on Earth.

## Abraham Lincoln: Statesman for All Ages

The Heritage Foundation

by [Edwin Meese, III](#) Heritage Lecture #1109

Abraham Lincoln possessed a great sense of humor. There is a great story that was handed down to me. I have not yet been able to find footnote verification that it was actually said by Abraham Lincoln, but it's the kind of story that he should have said, in case he didn't. It illustrates Lincoln's dislike for pomposity and people who put

on airs.

The story goes that he had a particular general who liked to send dispatches that were always headed: "Headquarters in the Saddle." [Read more...](#)



### Lincoln Quiz

Take the Lincoln Quiz!

The answers will be published on our next issue.

Enjoy it!

## A SELECTION OF PAST ARTICLES FROM THE ECONOMIST TO MARK THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF THE 16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

- "The Republican President's Creed", November 24th 1860
- "The Assassination of Mr Lincoln", April 29th 1865
- "The Life and Administration of Abraham Lincoln", July 29th 1865

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
**LISBON • PORTUGAL**

### *Embassy Speakers Program*

Traveling to the United States is the best way to get to know the country. But you can also get the flavor of America right here in Lisbon. The U.S. Embassy Speakers Program offers the opportunity to hear first-hand from American diplomats on many different topics.

We can share the U.S. perspective on a wide range of governmental, political, social and cultural issues, such as the presidential elections, education, volunteerism, history, arts & culture, philanthropy, business, economy, diversity, and affirmative action. We also can discuss the U.S. government position on foreign policy issues. These are only a few of the possibilities—please let us know what you'd like to hear about from us! Our goal is to address the topics you find interesting and important.

Most of our discussions will be conducted in English, although we also have staff who speak Portuguese.

Inquiries should be made by fax, mail or email at the following address:

U.S. Embassy  
Office of Public Affairs  
Avenida das Forças Armadas  
1649-044 LISBOA  
Fax: 21-727-6791  
Email: [OPALisbon@state.gov](mailto:OPALisbon@state.gov)

**The IRC is your  
information key!**

The Resource Center is part of the Office of Public Affairs and assists the Embassy staff as well as Portuguese government institutions, the private sector, NGO's, the media, researchers, scholars, and others with a serious research interest in the United States.

#### **Hours of Operation**

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 8:30 and 17:00 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, [Portuguese/American Holidays](#)
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

**Latest Reports** - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: [reflisbon@state.gov](mailto:reflisbon@state.gov)

1.5 MILLION HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2007. National Center for Education Statistics. December 2008.

AMERICAN MOBILITY: WHO MOVES? WHO STAYS PUT? WHERE'S HOME? Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. December 25, 2008.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: 2007. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. December 2008.

CENSUS BUREAU PROJECTS U.S. POPULATION OF 305.5 MILLION ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. U.S. Census Bureau. December 29, 2008.

HOW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE TIME: A VISUAL ESSAY. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Web posted December 2008.

LAUNCHING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN AEROSPACE WORKFORCE. Aerospace Industries Association.

December 2008.

THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN 2008. Children's Defense Fund. Web posted December 25, 2008.

OPENING THE "WINDOW TO A LARGER WORLD" LIBRARIES' ROLE IN CHANGING AMERICA: REPORT TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA & VICE-PRESIDENT-ELECT BIDEN TRANSITION TEAM.

[American Library Association]. December 17, 2008.

THE NEW POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Green Alliance. Stephen Hale. January 10, 2009.

UNDERSTANDING IRAN. RAND Corporation. Jerrold D. Green et al. Web posted January 8, 2009.

100 THINGS AMERICANS MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION RECORD. The White House. January 14, 2009.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO AND RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW. Center for Constitutional Rights. Web posted January 13, 2009.

ENHANCING CHILD SAFETY & ONLINE TECHNOLOGIES. Internet Safety Technical Task Force. January 13, 2009

READING ON THE RISE: A NEW CHAPTER IN AMERICAN LITERACY. National Endowment for the Arts. Web posted January 12, 2009.

REPOWER AMERICA WITH GREEN EDUCATION, GREEN JOBS, GREEN SCHOOLS. National Wildlife Federation. January 8, 2009.

ROOTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. U.S. House of Representatives, Budget Committee, Republicans. Web posted January 10, 2009.