

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Special Ed



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



*These activities are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. This is a great way to expose all students to general curriculum material.*

Presidents Day Day Unit

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



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Also included in this resource as separate files:

- Lesson plans
- Links and directions to digital activities
- PowerPoints (these are the books in the lesson plans)
- Activities in black and white

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This unit has over **100 pages plus 24 google slides**. Don't worry, I have a detailed lesson plan to make the most of these materials.

This unit comes in 2 separate files, one in color and one in black and white.

How this unit is set up:

There are two main parts to this unit. The first half is mainly about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The second half of the unit focuses on the powers of the president and our current president.

Images are updated with each presidential election.

Presidents' Day Lesson Plan

Preparation


- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Books
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - There are a lot of books in this unit. I will walk you through when to use each one.
 - Also provided is an mp4 (movie) version you can use if you do not want to print the books out. However, students love to read these books long after the unit is over.
- File Folder game
 - This unit contains a file folder matching game you can set up.

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- For this unit, use the close worksheets for the preassessment and assessment.
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make you own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.



This unit comes with a 11 day lesson plan.

The lesson plans contain:
Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Washington • Fact sheet intro • Vocab board introduction • Circle map 	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Our President • Vocab board activity • Writing prompt
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Lincoln • Fact sheet intro • Vocab board activity • Circle map 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Our President • Vocab board activity • Vocab puzzle (word search or sudoku)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Washington • Fact sheet review • Vocab board activity • Venn Diagram 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Powers of the President • Vocab board activity • Close worksheet
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Lincoln • Fact sheet review • Vocab board activity • Fact sheet cut & paste • Pretzel log cabin 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Powers of the President • Vocab board activity • Quiz
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Washington • Fact sheet review • Vocab board activity • Close worksheet 		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Lincoln • Fact sheet review • Vocab board activity • Close worksheet 		
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book: Great Presidents • Vocab board activity • File folder matching game 		

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

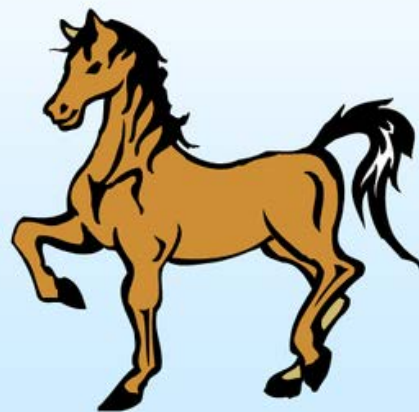
Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to the movie of the book: Abraham Lincoln (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocabulary board
Fact Sheet (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce the fact sheet on Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fact sheet
Vocabulary board I Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold up one of the pictures from the board so only you can see it.• Describe it with as much detail as you can• Ask students to put their marker/counter on the picture they think you are holding• Turn it around and ask students to raise their hand if they got it correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one copy of the board for each student• one teacher copy you have cut apart• Way for students to mark their board
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the circle map completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle map from yesterday
Circle Map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the circle map on Abraham Lincoln• Choose the best version (errorless or not) depending on the learning level of your students• Students cut out symbols and place in circle map• Make connections to the book as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle map• Scissors• Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	Each student shares their finished activity with the group using the communication method of their choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed activity• Communication devices

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

Young George liked to fish and go boating. He watched the ships that sailed past on the nearby river. But most of all he liked to ride his horse.



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There are 5 books in this unit. Each book has very simple text and engaging photos.

There is a 14 page book on George Washington and an 18 page book on Abraham Lincoln.



Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd on November 4 in 1842. He was 33.

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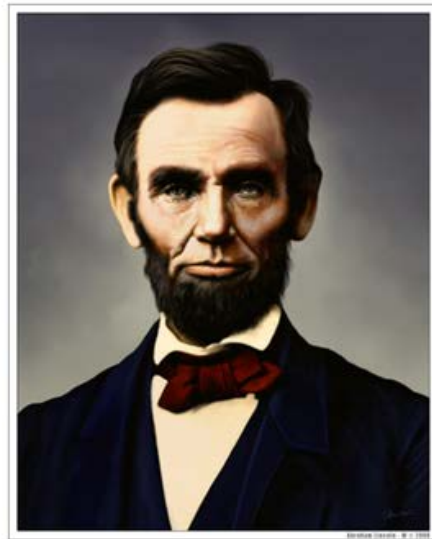
George Washington was a great president.

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There is a book that covers some of the great and current presidents.

Each book comes in pdf version as well as a voice recorded PowerPoint (so you don't have to print it out.) There is also a movie version you can use in google slides.



Abraham Lincoln was a great president.

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The president has many jobs.

- His main job is to enforce the laws of the United States.
- He is like the most important police officer in the country.



There is a book that covers the powers of the president as well as a book on our current president.

Both of these books have images updated with each presidential election.

The president can ask the congress to have a special meeting.



This unit comes with a storyboard.

Storyboards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



George Washington Fact Sheet



Washington was born on February 22, 1732 in Virginia.



Washington grew up on a farm.



Washington married a woman named Martha.



Washington was the **1st President of the United States**.



Washington led the Continental army and became a hero.



Washington was known as an honest man



Washington is known as the "Father of Our Country"



You can see Washington's image at Mount Rushmore.

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Abraham Lincoln Fact Sheet



Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.



Lincoln was born in a log cabin.



Lincoln was a mailman and a lawyer as young man.



Lincoln was the **16th President of the United States**.



Lincoln led the Civil War and tried to end slavery.



Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a holiday.



Lincoln was killed on April 14, 1865.



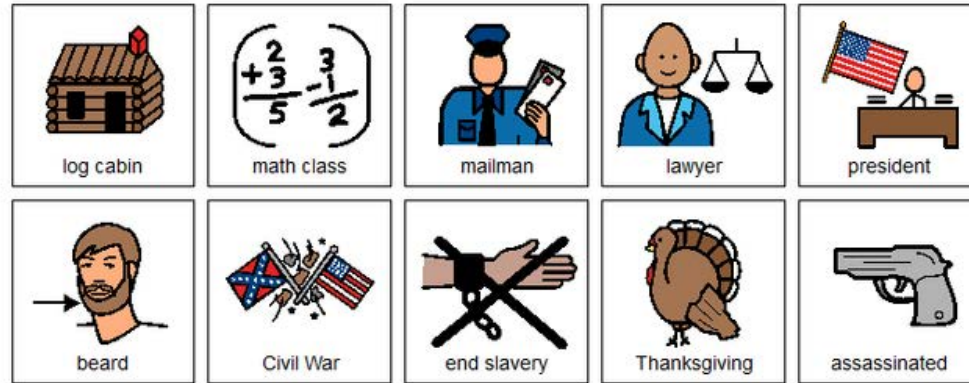
You can see Lincoln's image at the Lincoln Memorial and Mount Rushmore.

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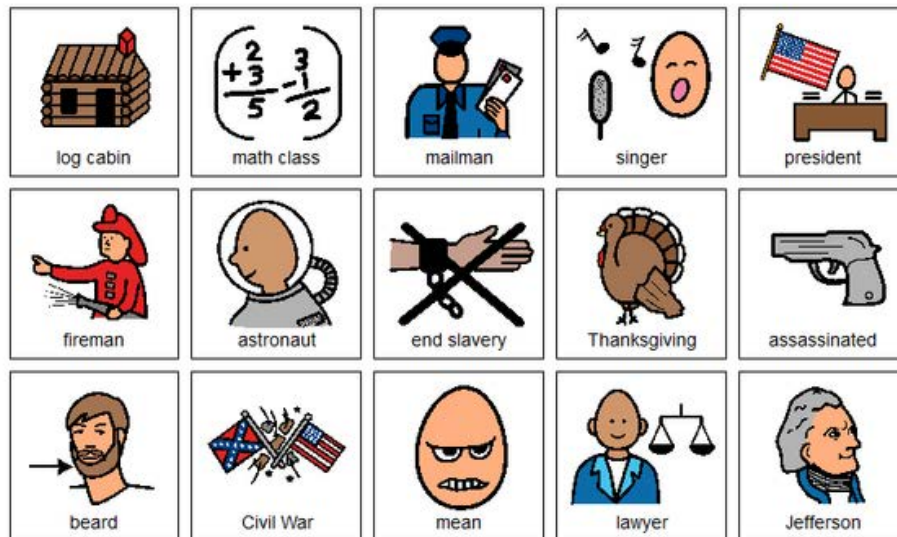
There are 2 fact sheets. One is on Washington and one is on Lincoln. These summarize the main facts in the books included. They are reviewed daily during the unit.

Errorless version

Cut apart pictures and place in circle map about George Washington.

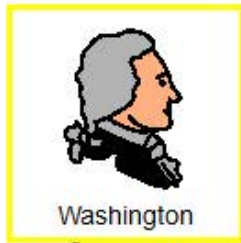


Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to Abraham Lincoln.

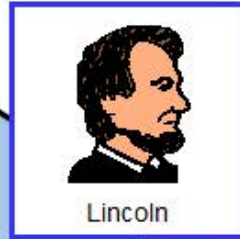


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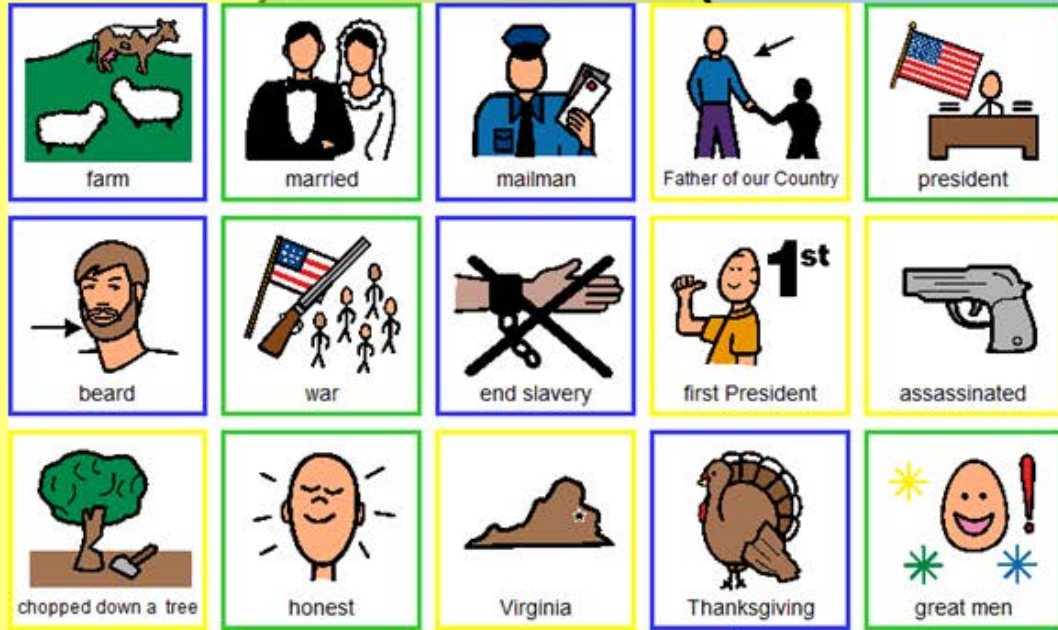
There are 2 circle maps. One is on Washington and one is on Lincoln. Both cover the main points in the books included. There is an errorless version and a version with wrong answers mixed in that students will have to set aside.



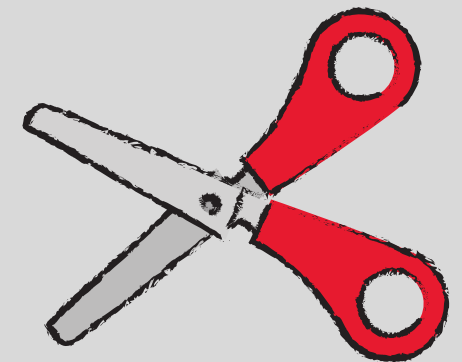
Washington



Lincoln



There is a Venn diagram comparing Washington and Lincoln. A color-coded option is included for students who need more support.



I was born on February 12, 1809.

I grew up on a farm.

I was a mailman and a lawyer as young man.

I was born in a log cabin.

I declared Thanksgiving a holiday.

I led the Continental army and became a hero.

I was known as an h

I was born on February 22, 1732 in Virginia.

I was the **16th President of the United States.**

I married a woman named Martha.

I was killed on April 14, 1865.

I was the **1st President of the United States.**

You can see my image at Mount Rushmore.

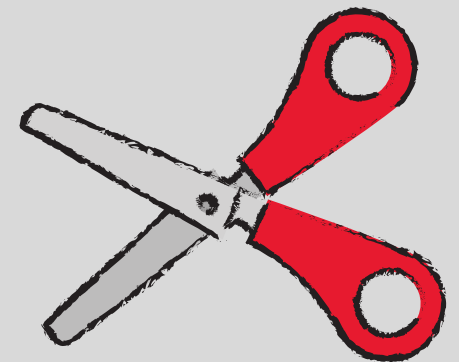
n as the "Father of Our Country"

Place the image with the correct fact on the previous pages.



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Used as an informal assessment, there is a cut paste activity using the facts sheets for Washington and Lincoln.



Print 2 sets, one on regular paper and one on cardstock



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If your students are readers, print out these labels on cardstock, laminate, and Velcro.

George Washington

John F. Kennedy

Thomas Jefferson

Jimmy Carter

Abraham Lincoln

Ronald Reagan

Joe Biden

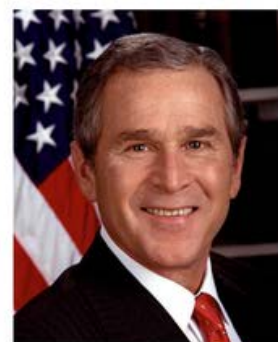
George Bush

Franklin Roosevelt

Barack Obama

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Print 2 sets, one on regular paper and one on cardstock



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There are images and directions to create an identical matching file folder game. Again images will be updated with each presidential election to include the most current president.



If I Were President



If I were President, I would make sure everyone in the US had

enough

If I were President, I would make a new

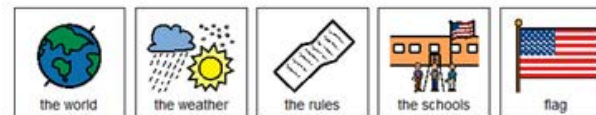
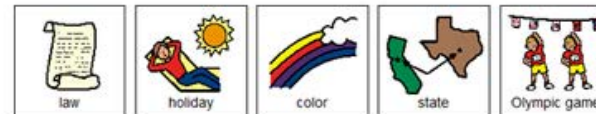
If I were President, I would change

If I were President, I would give everyone more

I would be a

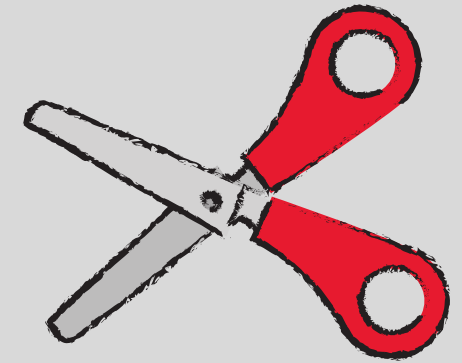
President.

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There is a writing prompt about what you would do if you were president. This is an errorless activity and allows every student to write their own story independently.



Presidents' Day Sudoku Puzzle

 Bush		 Biden	 Washington	 Lincoln	
	 Lincoln	 Obama			
 Lincoln		 Clinton	 Biden	 Washington	 Bush
 Biden		 Bush	 Lincoln		
		 Lincoln	 Obama		
	 Biden	 Washington			

Presidents' Day Sudoku Puzzle

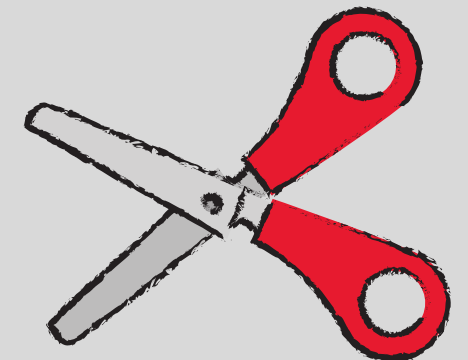
 Obama	 Lincoln		
	 Biden	 Lincoln	
 Lincoln	 Obama	 Biden	

There are 2 sudoku puzzles to review past presidents. One is 6x6 and one is 4x4. Answer keys are included.

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Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

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Abraham Lincoln

1. Abraham Lincoln was born in a .
2. To make money, when he was younger, Lincoln was a .
3. Lincoln was a commander in the .
4. Lincoln wanted to see an end to .
5. Sadly, Lincoln was when he was only 56 years old.



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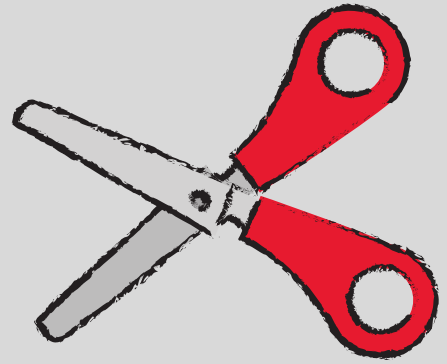
The Power of the President

1. The President enforces the .
2. The President is in charge of the .
3. The President has the ability to people or let them out of jail.
4. The President meets with important leaders from other .
5. Our current President is .



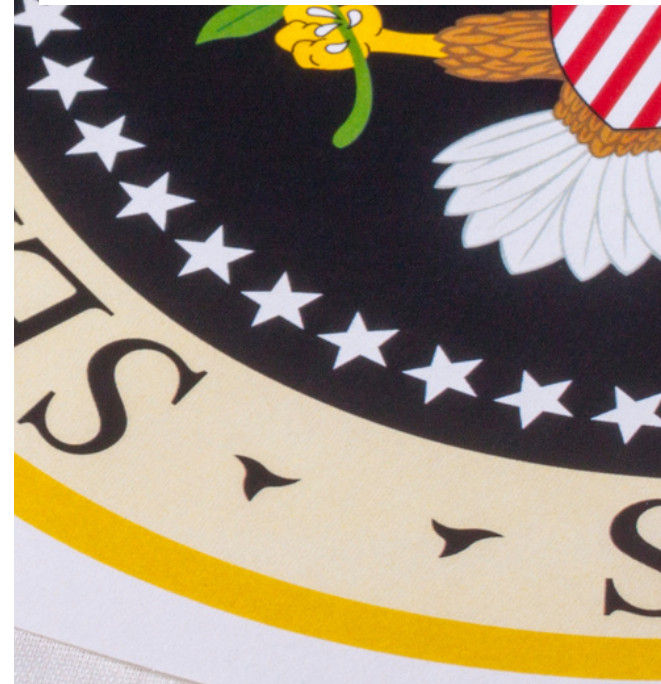
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There are 3 fill in the blank worksheets that can serve as an informal assessment.



George Washington

1. George Washington was born in .
2. Even when he was little, he was very .
3. George Washington went to fight in the .
4. After the war, he was seen as a .
5. George Washington became the president of the United States.



Name: _____

Color in the circles that are powers of the President.

Head of the military



Makes laws



Enforces the laws



Grants pardons



Interprets the law



Hosts other leaders



There is a short quiz on the powers of the president.





Pretzel Log Cabins

- Materials
 - Small empty milk carton
 - Pretzel sticks
 - Chocolate frosting or peanut butter
 - 1 Rolo or other tubular shaped candy
 - 1 square cracker
 - Scissors
 - Hot glue or tape

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- Directions
 1. Cut the top flap of the milk carton off and tape or hot glue it closed to form the roof.
 2. Spread chocolate frosting or peanut butter on one side of milk carton then cover with pretzels. Repeat this step all over the milk carton until log cabin is complete. You may need to break the tips off of some of the pretzels to make them fit up the sides.
 3. Break a square cracker in half, then break one of the halves in half. Spread some frosting or peanut butter on the back of the first half. "Glue" it to the front of the cabin as the door. Repeat this step with a smaller broken piece for the window.
 4. Spread some frosting or peanut butter to the bottom of Rolo and stick to the roof.



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Students will have a chance to make a log cabin out of pretzel sticks.

He serves as the commander in chief of all the armed forces.



This unit also contains digital versions of printable activities. There is a video of all books read aloud.

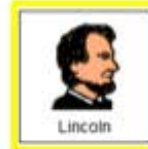
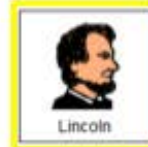


Match the picture of each president.



There are digital versions of the activities included. Students click and drag the answers.

Match the president with the fact.



I was born on February 12, 1809.

I grew up on a farm.

I was a mailman and a lawyer as young man.

I was born in a log cabin.

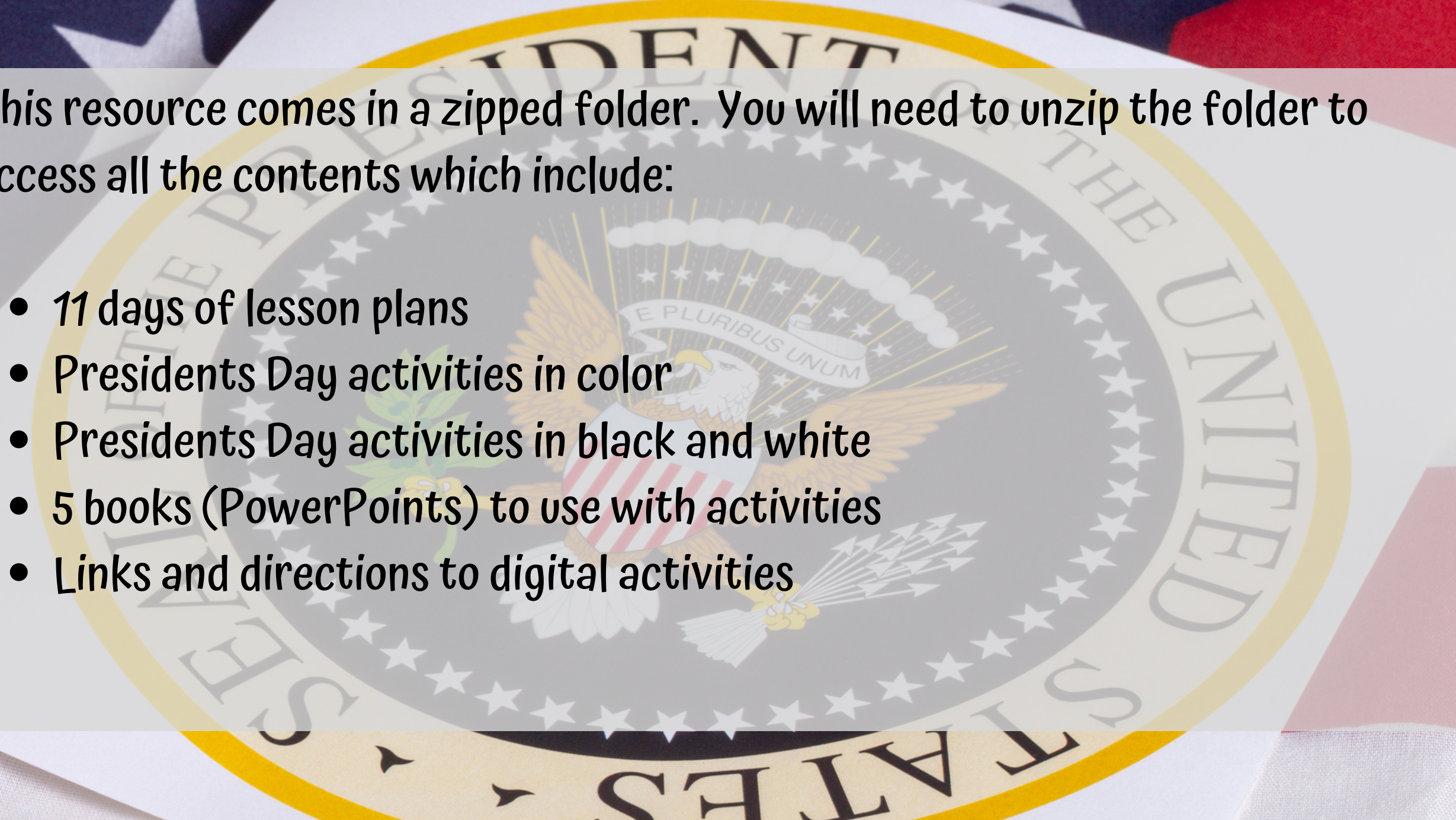
I declared Thanksgiving a holiday.

I led the Continental army and became a hero.

I was known as an honest man.

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There are 2 sets, one that includes differentiation shown here.

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent seal of the President of the United States. The seal is circular with a gold border and contains an eagle with wings spread, holding an olive branch and arrows, with a shield on its chest. Above the eagle is a banner with the motto "E PLURIBUS UNUM". The words "THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES" are written around the perimeter of the seal. The seal is overlaid on a background of the American flag's stars and stripes.

This resource comes in a zipped folder. You will need to unzip the folder to access all the contents which include:

- **11 days of lesson plans**
- **Presidents Day activities in color**
- **Presidents Day activities in black and white**
- **5 books (PowerPoints) to use with activities**
- **Links and directions to digital activities**