



Activity #1 – I’ve Always Wanted to Know About...

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
 - Character quality emphasized: intellect
1. Abraham Lincoln constantly was in the pursuit of knowledge, as we should also be. All of us have interests in some areas which we have never taken the time to pursue. Tell students this is their chance. Complete the phrase “I’ve always wanted to know about...” and have students conduct research or interview someone who knows about this topic.
 2. Have students share what they learned in a small group teaching exercise, a powerpoint, or in a written report.
 3. Perhaps inviting an “expert” to class and having that person share about his/her training and preparation necessary for that career would be a great service to the students
 4. Have the class vote on and adopt one of the quotes as words to live by for their class motto.

Activity #2 – Inspired by learning:

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
 - Character quality emphasized: intellect
1. We have all read books which have inspired us, caused us to think about things differently, or even live differently. Reflect upon three books you read which did that for you.
 2. Have the students create a poster (for elementary) which depicts how the book affected you, or to accentuate the ripple effects of learning, have the students make a list of all the books they can think of, and have them theorize on the importance of learning, and on how they would be different without having ever read those books.

Activity #3 – Lincoln’s learning:

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
 - Character quality emphasized: intellect
1. Research either the Rock Island Bridge Case or the Horological Cradle Case, both of which Lincoln participated in. Focus on the great extent which Lincoln took to find out more about those cases, and the joy that he experienced in that. Or you might focus on how Lincoln was fascinated by mechanical objects such as the Spencer repeating rifle and the telegraph.

2. Report on how those learning experiences impacted Lincoln and have a class discussion to that end.

Activity #4 – Lincoln’s patent.

- Target grade level: /secondary/college
 - Character quality emphasized: intellect
1. Have students explore the patent which Abraham Lincoln received.
 2. As an extension, have students research a new cutting-edge invention or new technology on the horizon, and how education and training has been/will be important in making this technology happen.

Activity #5 – Importance of education

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
 - Character quality emphasized: intellect
1. Expose the students to the Lincoln quote: “Education is the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.” Either inform the students what the context in which he said this, or instruct them to find out.
 2. Have students theorize why Lincoln felt education was so vital at that time when schooling was not required for children.
 3. Research the education which Lincoln had which was typical of his era, and have students find out how he was able to supplement his lack of formal education.
 4. Put up that quote somewhere in the classroom so students can be reminded of how important education is.