



Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural speech.
Activity created by Angela Orr, Graduate Assistant

Purpose: Students will identify the main ideas, and the tone of the entire speech.

Social Studies Standards: 8.76

A copy of Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural speech will be needed for this task. The speech can be found at the following link: <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=38&page=transcript>

Directions: Read President Lincoln's second inaugural speech. Then answer the following questions.

1. Summarize the meaning of paragraph 2.
2. Lincoln states, "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that I continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." What does he mean in this quote?
3. Who does the final paragraph say the people should take care of? Why would they need taken care of?
4. Also in the last paragraph he speaks of ".....just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." Why is the idea of peace so important at this point and time? How would the last four years influence how you felt?