

From a Log Cabin to the White House

When Abraham Lincoln became the sixteenth U.S. president in 1861, the issue of slavery had already divided the country. Arguments between states that supported slavery and states that did not erupted into the Civil War shortly after Lincoln took office.



The president who tried to bring the United States together during the Civil War came from a humble background. Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, near Hodgenville, Kentucky, in a log cabin. In 1816, his family moved to Indiana. Lincoln attended school there for a short time but spent most of his days working or reading on his family's farm. In 1831, at the age of 21, Lincoln moved to a town in Illinois called New Salem. He worked at a general store there. Around this time he entered politics. In 1832, Lincoln ran for a seat in the Illinois congress. He lost that race but he ran again in 1834 and won. He served in the Illinois legislature from 1834 to 1842.

