



## GOAL 6 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL **Election of 1864**

**Grades:** Middle School

**Approximate Length of Time:** 3 hours

**Goal:** Students will be able to discuss the various factors that contributed to Lincoln's 1864 re-election.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to complete a graphic organizer, finding key information within primary and secondary sources.
2. Students will be able to address a question about a historic event, providing evidence from primary and secondary sources.

### **Common Core:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1

Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.7

Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

**NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:**

- 1—Culture
- 2—Time, Continuity, and Change
- 3—People, Places, and Environment
- 5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- 6—Power, Authority, and Governance
- 10—Civic Ideals and Practices

**Description:** This is an inquiry lesson where students will do research to answer the inquiry question related to the election of 1864. Students will develop a hypothesis, search for evidence in multiple primary and secondary sources, and complete a graphic organizer. Through this process students will develop a strong answer to the inquiry question posed at the beginning.

**Inquiry Question:** What events, actions, and ideas helped Lincoln win the presidential election of 1864?

**Material:**

- Vocabulary
- Secondary Source Documents Packet
- Primary Source Documents Packet
- Graphic Organizer
- National Archives Document Analysis
- Final Essay
- Highlighters

**Procedure:**

## Section 1 (45 min)

1. Present the Inquiry Question and hand out the Vocabulary
2. Have students begin with a hypothesis to answer the inquiry question.
3. Students will then read through the Secondary Source Documents packet – highlighting, taking notes, answering questions, and making notes in their Graphic Organizer.

## Section 2 (1 hour)

4. Provide students with 6 copies each of the National Archives Document Analysis

5. Students will then read through the Primary Source Document Packet – highlighting, taking notes, answering questions, filling out the Graphic Organizer, and National Archives Document Analysis as they progress.

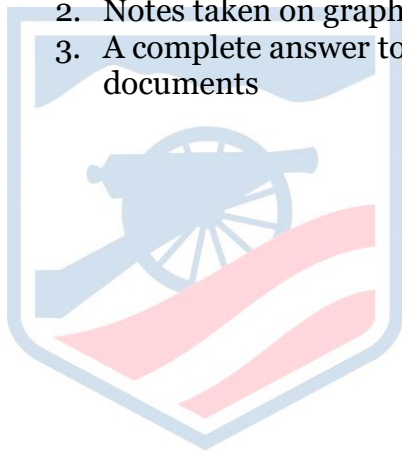
**Conclusion:**

Students will answer the inquiry question either orally or in essay form. They should use evidence from their primary and secondary sources. They can use the documents, their notes, and their graphic organizer. Students can do additional research to bolster their argument.

Students can share their responses with the class.

**Assessment in this Lesson:**

1. A completed graphic organizer and document analysis form.
2. Notes taken on graphic organizer, documents, or other notes sheets
3. A complete answer to the inquiry question with quotes from the provided documents



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

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PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

Presidential Election – Every four years the people of the United States choose a national leader, known as the executive or president. The individuals who would like to be chosen must explain why they would be the best person for the job and what they will do for the country while they are president.

Candidate – The person running for political office.

Incumbent – The person who is already in the political office or position that is trying to be re-elected.

Vote – The act of choosing a person for a certain political office.

Running Mate – The person running with the Presidential candidate for the position of Vice President

-Your own vocabulary list can be created below -



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Primary Sources Election of 1864

- The following documents may have been excerpted, if so, you can find the full texts using the citation below the document.
- Certain parts have been bolded and highlighted to draw attention to words or parts of the text, this has been done for our purposes, and are not in the original document.
- Circle, look-up, and define the words you need to know in order to understand the document.
- Underline names of people mentioned that you find significant, if necessary you can do a quick search, and write down a very brief note about them on the document.
- Double underline places that are mentioned and find them on a map. Note their location. Do a search on [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org) to see if there was a battle at this location on or around the dates that are given.
- When doing research, you do not need to write in full sentences or paragraphs, brief notes and bullet points can be enough.

## Lincoln on Re-election

August 23, 1864

*In the summer of 1864, Abraham Lincoln was growing convinced that he would not be re-elected. He wrote the following letter and asked his cabinet to sign their names on the outside, sight unseen, to pledge their commitment to continue the fight to preserve the Union.*

"This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to so cooperate with the Government President elect, as to save the Union between the Election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterwards."

Abraham Lincoln, August 23, 1864, Accessed December 16, 2019, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/lincoln-re-election>

What does this letter tell you about Lincoln's position on the war?

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## 1864 Democratic Party Platform

August 29, 1864

Resolved, That in the future, as in the past, we will adhere with unswerving fidelity to the Union under the Constitution as the only solid foundation of our strength, security, and happiness as a people, and as a framework of government equally conducive to the welfare and prosperity of all the States, both Northern and Southern.

Resolved, That this convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, during which, under the pretense of a military necessity of war-power higher than the Constitution, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part, and public liberty and private right alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired, justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities, with a view of an ultimate convention of the States, or other peaceable means, to the end that, at the earliest practicable moment, peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States.

Resolved, That the direct interference of the military authorities of the United States in the recent elections held in Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and Delaware was a shameful violation of the Constitution, and a repetition of such acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and power under our control.

Resolved, That the aim and object of the Democratic party is to preserve the Federal Union and the rights of the States unimpaired, and they hereby declare that they consider that the administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers not granted by the Constitution; the subversion of the civil by military law in States not in insurrection; the arbitrary military arrest, imprisonment, trial, and sentence of American citizens in States where civil law exists in full force; the suppression of freedom of speech and of the press; the denial of the right of asylum; the open and avowed disregard of State rights; the employment of unusual test-oaths; and the interference with and denial of the right of the people to bear arms in their defense is calculated to prevent a restoration of the Union and the perpetuation of a Government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

Resolved, That the shameful disregard of the Administration to its duty in respect to our fellow-citizens who now are and long have been prisoners of war and in a suffering condition, deserves the severest reprobation on the score alike of public policy and common humanity.

Resolved, That the sympathy of the Democratic party is heartily and earnestly extended to the soldiery of our army and sailors of our navy, who are and have been in the field and on the sea under the flag of our country, and, in the events of its attaining power, they will receive all the care, protection, and regard that the brave soldiers and sailors of the republic have so nobly earned.

Democratic Party Platforms: "1864 Democratic Party Platform," August 29, 1864. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=29578>.

List the items that the Democratic Party will focus on and promise in the 1864 election:



## Republican Party Platform of 1864

June 7, 1864

Excerpt

1. Resolved, That it is the highest duty of every American citizen to maintain against all their enemies the integrity of the Union and the paramount authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States; and that, laying aside all differences of political opinion, we pledge ourselves, as Union men, animated by a common sentiment and aiming at a common object, to do everything in our power to aid the Government in quelling by force of arms the Rebellion now raging against its authority, and in bringing to the punishment due to their crimes the Rebels and traitors arrayed against it.
2. Resolved, That we approve the determination of the Government of the United States not to compromise with Rebels, or to offer them any terms of peace, except such as may be based upon an unconditional surrender of their hostility and a return to their just allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that we call upon the Government to maintain this position and to prosecute the war with the utmost possible vigor to the complete suppression of the Rebellion, in full reliance upon the self-sacrificing patriotism, the heroic valor and the undying devotion of the American people to the country and its free institutions.
3. Resolved, That as slavery was the cause, and now constitutes the strength of this Rebellion, and as it must be, always and everywhere, hostile to the principles of Republican Government, justice and the National safety demand its utter and complete extirpation from the soil of the Republic; and that, while we uphold and maintain the acts and proclamations by which the Government, in its own defense, has aimed a deathblow at this gigantic evil, we are in favor, furthermore, of such an amendment to the Constitution, to be made by the people in conformity with its provisions, as shall terminate and forever prohibit the existence of Slavery within the limits of the jurisdiction of the United States.
4. Resolved, That the thanks of the American people are due to the soldiers and sailors of the Army and Navy, who have periled their lives in defense of the country and in vindication of the honor of its flag; that the nation owes to them some permanent recognition of their patriotism and their valor, and ample and permanent provision for those of their survivors who have received disabling and honorable wounds in the service of the country; and that the memories of those who have fallen in its defense shall be held in grateful and everlasting remembrance.
5. Resolved, That we approve and applaud the practical wisdom, the unselfish patriotism and the unswerving fidelity to the Constitution and the principles of American liberty, with which ABRAHAM LINCOLN has discharged, under circumstances of unparalleled difficulty, the great duties and responsibilities of the Presidential office; that we approve and indorse, as demanded by the emergency and essential to the preservation of the nation and as within the provisions of the Constitution, the measures and acts which he has adopted to defend the nation against its open and secret foes; that we approve, especially, the Proclamation of Emancipation, and

the employment as Union soldiers of men heretofore held in slavery; and that we have full confidence in his determination to carry these and all other Constitutional measures essential to the salvation of the country into full and complete effect.

6. Resolved, That we deem it essential to the general welfare that harmony should prevail in the National Councils, and we regard as worthy of public confidence and official trust those only who cordially indorse the principles proclaimed in these resolutions, and which should characterize the administration of the government.

7. Resolved, That the Government owes to all men employed in its armies, without regard to distinction of color, the full protection of the laws of war—and that any violation of these laws, or of the usages of civilized nations in time of war, by the Rebels now in arms, should be made the subject of prompt and full redress.

Republican Party Platforms: "Republican Party Platform of 1864," June 7, 1864. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=29621>.

List the items that the Republican Party will focus on and promise in the 1864 election:

## Abraham Lincoln’s Letter to Major General Sherman September 19, 1864

Major General Sherman,

The State election of Indiana occurs on the 11th. of October, and the loss of it to the friends of the Government would go far towards losing the whole Union cause. The bad effect upon the November election, and especially the giving the State Government to those who will oppose the war in every possible way, are too much to risk, if it can possible be avoided. The draft proceeds, notwithstanding its strong tendency to lose us the State. Indiana is the only important State, voting in October, whose soldiers cannot vote in the field. Any thing you can safely do to let her soldiers, or any part of them, go home and vote at the State election, will be greatly in point. They need not remain for the Presidential election, but may return to you at once. This is, in no sense, an order, but is merely intended to impress you with the importance, to the army itself, of your doing all you safely can, yourself being the judge of what you can safely do. Yours truly

A. Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln to William T. Sherman, September 19, 1864, *Teaching American History.org*, <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/letter-to-william-t-sherman/>

What actions, events, or ideas are put forward in this document that could impact the election?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

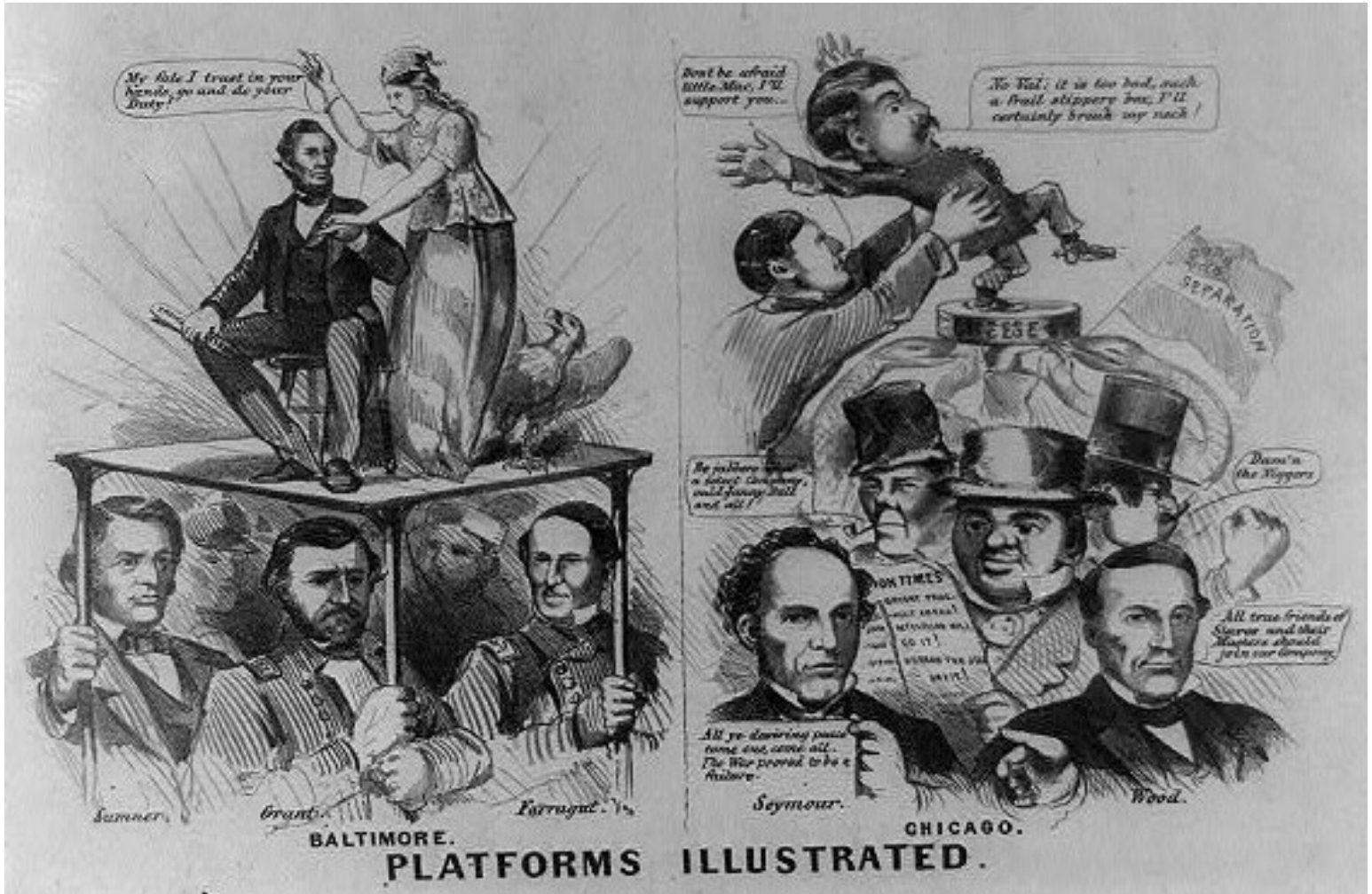
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### Platforms Illustrated



What actions, events, or ideas does this cartoon put forward that could have impact the election?

“Platforms Illustrated,” 1864. Louis Prang & Co. Lithograph on wove paper. Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, accessed April 26, 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3a09828/>.

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## The True Peace Commissioners



Cameron, John. "The True Peace Commissioners," 1864. Currier & Ives. Lithograph on wove paper. Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, accessed April 26, 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661660/>

What does this cartoon suggest will be the way to have peace?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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- When doing research, you do not need to write in full sentences or paragraphs, brief notes and bullet points can be enough.

## Civil War in Four Minutes: Election of 1864

*Historian Gary Gallagher discusses the pivotal 1864 presidential election and the ramifications it had upon the American Civil War. This video is part of the Civil War Trust's In4 video series, which presents short videos on basic Civil War topics.*

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/election-1864>

Dr. Gallagher begins the video by saying that the election of 1864 is one of the most pivotal (Pivotal – a moment of great importance that would impact the future) moments in the Civil War. What makes this a pivotal moment? List the major points of his argument below:

Dr. Gallagher says what directly impacted the election:



## The War Effort Hangs on the Ballot Box

*Hallowed Ground Magazine, Fall 2014*

### Edited Version

In the election of 1864 the American voters did more than just vote for one man to be president of the United States, they were voting on whether or not the war should continue. They were also voting on the role of blacks in society (Society: A community of people).

Abraham Lincoln and his running mate Andrew Johnson ran against Lincoln's former General, George B. McClellan and his running mate George Pendleton. McClellan who was running as a Democrat ran on a peace platform, offering to work toward a peace agreement with the Confederate State/states in rebellion.

Lincoln's situation looked not great going into the election – The last time an incumbent was elected to office was in 1832, Lincoln's additional war aim of emancipation was troubling to many Northerners, the Union army had limited victory and the death toll was rising quickly. The people were becoming tired of war. Lincoln, aware of his situation, even wrote a memorandum in August, 1864 asking his cabinet to be aware of his possible loss of the election and to help him save the Union before the new president took office.

Tides began to turn for Lincoln as General Sherman and his men gained a major victory in Atlanta that September. This along with disagreements in the Democratic Party and further Union victories in Virginia that October greatly strengthened Lincoln's chances.

The 11 Confederate states did not participate in the election, meaning only 25 states participated. The new states of Kansas, West Virginia and Nevada also participated in a national election for the first time.

When all the votes were counted, Lincoln won the election in a landslide, defeating McClellan by more than 500,000 popular votes and 191 electoral votes. An estimated 78 percent of Union soldiers cast their ballots in favor of Lincoln.

"The War Effort Hangs on the Ballot Box," Unedited Version. *Hallowed Ground* Fall 2014.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/election-1864>

Go through the article and highlight any events, actions, and/or ideas helped Lincoln win the presidential election of 1864. Write these events, actions, and ideas on your Graphic Organizer.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Abraham Lincoln: Campaigns and Elections

By Michael Burlingame

*Professor Burlingame's article on the presidential election of 1864 provides a detailed overview of the presidential campaign, the individuals involved, and events leading up to the election.*

Read from The Campaign and Election of 1864 to the end.

Michael Burlingame, *Miller Center*, "Abraham Lincoln: Campaigns and Elections," Accessed April 26, 2018, <http://millercenter.org/president/lincoln/campaigns-and-elections>.

Go through the article and highlight any events, actions, and/or ideas helped Lincoln win the presidential election of 1864. Write these events, actions, and ideas on your Graphic Organizer.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Election of 1864 Graphic Organizer

What events/actions/ideas helped Lincoln win the presidential election of 1864?

Hypothesis:

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Events: An event such as a battle, natural disaster, death, birth, etc.

Actions: Actions taken by political parties, candidates, or other individuals meant to have an impact on the election.

Ideas: Thoughts and ideas of the time that had an impact on the population and voters.

Events	Actions	Ideas

# Analyze a Written Document

## Meet the document.

Type (check all that apply):

- |   |                                    |  |  |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram      | <input type="checkbox"/> Court document        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chart                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Email     | <input type="checkbox"/> Identification document |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional document |                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                   |  |  |

Describe it as if you were explaining to someone who can't see it.

*Think about: Is it handwritten or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?*

## Observe its parts.

Who wrote it?

Who read/received it?

When is it from?

Where is it from?

## Try to make sense of it.

What is it talking about?

Write one sentence summarizing this document.

Why did the author write it?

Quote evidence from the document that tells you this.

What was happening at the time in history this document was created?

## Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this document that you might not learn anywhere else?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay

What events, actions, and ideas helped Lincoln win the presidential election of 1864?

**Be sure to:**

- Provide a response to the inquiry question.
- Support your response with evidence – using quotes and data from primary and secondary source material.
- Write your essay and present your information in an organized way.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that supports the argument presented.