

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Hats Off To Lincoln

READ:

Sometimes a person becomes known for an item of clothing that they wear often. In Abraham Lincoln's case, it was a hat! Photographs of Abraham Lincoln often show him wearing a tall hat called a top hat. Since he was 6ft, 4 in tall, wearing the hat made him even more noticeable and recognizable. Lincoln often kept important papers and notes in his hat so he wouldn't lose them. He wore his hat while he worked as president doing public tasks such as visiting the troops during the Civil War, walking to meetings, and giving speeches. He wore the top hat so much, that he was often drawn wearing it in political cartoons so that viewers would recognize the character as Lincoln. Today, we still associate the top hat with our 16th president!

DO:

- **Decorate** a paper plate. Lincoln's top hats were black, but you can make yours any colors or patterns you want!
- **Cut out** the middle of the plate, it will be the top of your hat. Save the edge of your plate, it will be the brim of your hat.
- **Tape** two pieces of construction paper together or use poster board. Roll it into a cylinder the same size as the middle of your paper plate and glue or tap it together.
- **Use** tape or glue to attach the middle of the paper plate to the top of the cylinder so it is the top of your hat. Attach the edge of the paper plate around the bottom of the cylinder to make the brim of your hat.
- **Write** a short speech about an issue or topic you care about. Say why it is important and share one idea about how to solve it.
- **Wear** your hat while you give your speech to your family members.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Paper Plate
- ⇒ Scissors
- ⇒ Coloring Supplies
- ⇒ Tape or Glue
- ⇒ Construction Paper or Poster Board
- ⇒ Writing Supplies/Pencil and Paper

SHARE:

- **Post** your speech and hat with photographs or even a recording on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Hat rumored to have been worn by Lincoln.
ICHiko52632
