

Looking Ahead *Grade Level*

Unit 8: Civil War

Name: Date: Period:

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1861, Southern states began seceding from the Union, and within a few months the American Civil War began. Three years later, on November 8, 1864, the states that had remained in the Union elected Abraham Lincoln president for a second term. Four months after that, Lincoln delivered his Second Inaugural Address to the nation on March 4, 1865. By that time, the Confederacy was becoming increasingly weaker, and the end of the Civil War was in sight.

As Lincoln prepared for his second four-year term in office, he turned his mind toward the future. His Second Inaugural Address focused on important issues like how to heal the country's wounds after four years of the bloodiest fighting in the nation's history; how to reunite the North and the South; and how the nation could move forward after the war.

In this lesson, you will read excerpts from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address to determine Lincoln's thoughts on what should happen after the Civil War.

1. Based on the context of the reading above, what is an Inaugural Address?
 - a. A location at which a new president lives while waiting to take office.
 - b. A speech given by a new president when he or she takes office.
 - c. A law passed by a president in the middle of a war.
 - d. A proposed bill outlining how to end the war and heal the country.
2. What were the primary themes or topics Lincoln discussed in this address? Choose **THREE**.

Healing the country	Rights of freed people	Punishing the South
Reuniting the country	Terms of Southern surrender	Moving forward

3. Do you think Lincoln might attempt to answer one or more of these questions?

*"With **malice** toward none with **charity** for all with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right let us strive on to finish the work we are in to **bind up** the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have **borne** the battle and for his widow and his orphan ~ to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."*

Malice: Anger, hatred

Charity: Help, love.

Bind up: Put a bandage on

Borne: Carried out

4. Lincoln stated *"With malice toward none with charity for all..."* What do you think Lincoln meant by this?

5. In this excerpt, Lincoln gives examples of actions the United States must take for how to "finish the work" the country was in. What actions does Lincoln suggest? Choose **THREE**.

- To heal the divided country
- To take care of the Civil War veterans who fought in the war
- To establish punishments for the rebels who led the war
- To take care of the families of the veterans
- To pass laws protecting the rights of the freed people.

6. Based on Lincoln's speech, do you think Lincoln wanted to focus on harsh punishment for the Southern states who rebelled against the government, or reconciliation and unity? What words or phrases from the excerpt support your claim?

Based on Lincoln's speech, I think Lincoln **(A)** wanted to focus on punishment for the Southern states who rebelled **(B)** wanted to focus on reconciliation and unity. One phrase from the excerpt that supports my claim is when Lincoln stated, " _____

_____,"