



Ford's Theatre Student Museum Guide



Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives

Welcome to Ford's Theatre



This guide is intended to get you **thinking** and **talking** about some of the things you will see at Ford's. You might like to work with a partner and **discuss** these questions as you go through the Museum, Theatre, Petersen House and Center for Education and Leadership galleries. If the Museum is crowded, feel free to explore stops 1 through 7 out of order. Have fun, and enjoy your visit!

In Front of Theatre

STOP
1



What do you see in the photo that is not there today?

How is the block different than it was when this picture was taken in the 1860s?

Did you know?

Built in 1833 as the First Baptist Church, the brick facade of Ford's Theatre is the only part of the building that is original. The rest of the building has been gutted and renovated several times over the years, most notably in 1968 when it was restored to look exactly like it did the night Lincoln was assassinated.

**STOP
2**

Basement Museum

Washington during the Civil War



Was Washington, D.C. the same shape and size during the Civil War as it is today?

Can you find the Capitol Building and the White House on the above map or the map in the exhibit?



Did you know?

The Washington Monument is not the same color from top to bottom. Construction on the Washington Monument stopped in 1854 because there was not enough money or political will to continue. After the Civil War, construction resumed in 1879, but the quarry where the builders had gotten the

original stone no longer existed, and they had to find another source. The new stone was a slightly different color from the old stone. Today, you can see which part of the Monument was built before the war, and which after!

Office Seekers

STOP
3



What kinds of questions are these people asking?

If you could meet with the President today, what would you ask?

Did you know?

You used to be able to knock on the front door of the White House and ask to see the president. Don't try that today!

Life in the White House



Did you know?

Willie and Tad had a pet goat that they hitched to a cart and rode through the White House!

President Lincoln's family lived with him in the White House. Who lives in the White House today? Lincoln's sons, Willie and Tad, liked to pretend they were soldiers fighting for the Union. How is the toy sword in the exhibit different from a toy today?

Mary Lincoln wore beautiful clothes that were custom-made for her. What kind of image do you think she was trying to present by the way she dressed? What kind of statements do you make with your clothes? Which other First Ladies have been known for their fashion sense?

Mrs. Lincoln's fan is also beautiful, and besides being a lovely accessory, it was a very functional item. Why might ladies have needed fans in the 1860's?

Elizabeth Keckley was Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker and close friend. What are two obstacles Mrs. Keckley had overcome by the time she knew Mrs. Lincoln? How might those make her remarkable?

Tree/Second Inaugural

STOP
5



President Lincoln had a choice at the end of the Civil War: he could punish the South, or he could move forward and reunite the nation. Which did he plan to do? Who was also at his second inaugural address (and disagreed with Lincoln)?



Did you know?

President Lincoln's second inaugural address was only 701 words long and took

about seven minutes to deliver. Compare that to President Obama's second inaugural speech, which was 2,136 words long and took almost 20 minutes to deliver!

STOP
6

Conspirators



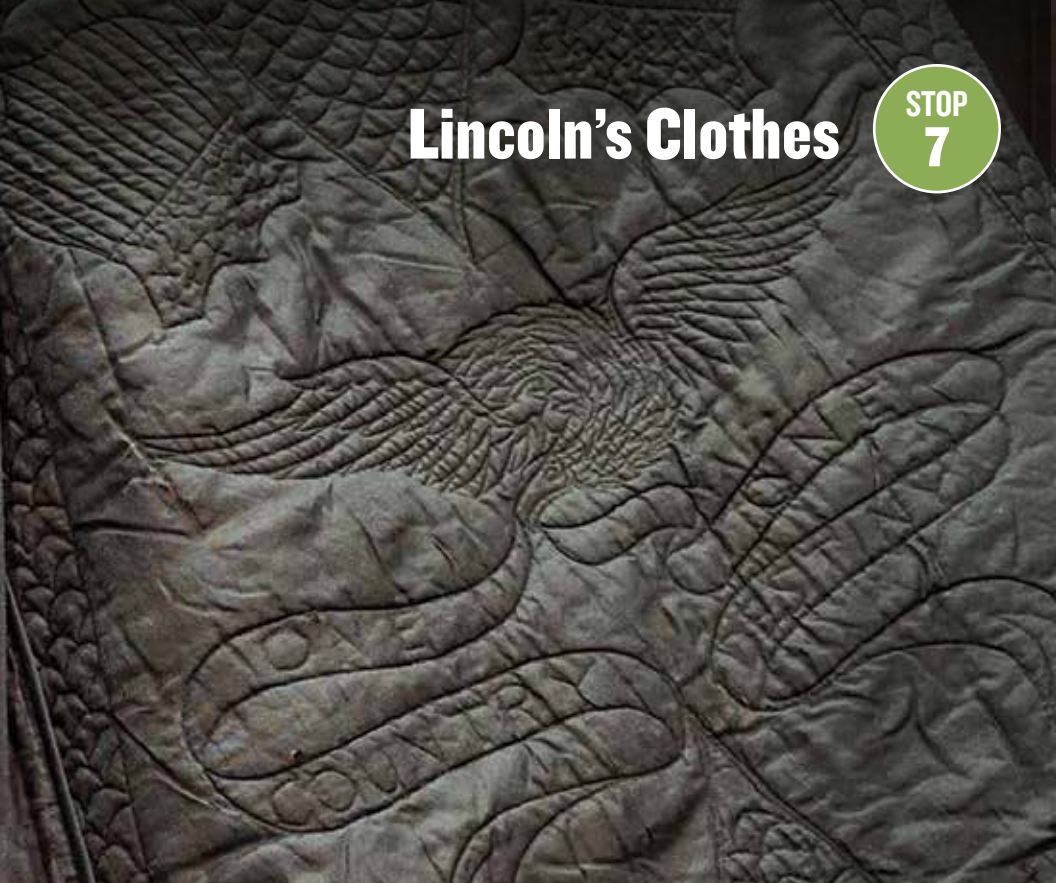
How many conspirators helped John Wilkes Booth? Whom did Booth want to kill in addition to the president? Why?

Did you know?

Mary Surratt was the first woman to be executed by the Federal Government. The Surratt boarding house, where the conspirators planned their crimes, still stands today on H Street NW, although it is no longer a home; now, it is a Chinese restaurant.

Lincoln's Clothes

STOP
7



The night he died, Lincoln wore a black coat that had been custom-made for him. This is a picture of the embroidery on the inside lining, depicting an eagle carrying a banner with some text on it. What do the embroidered words say?

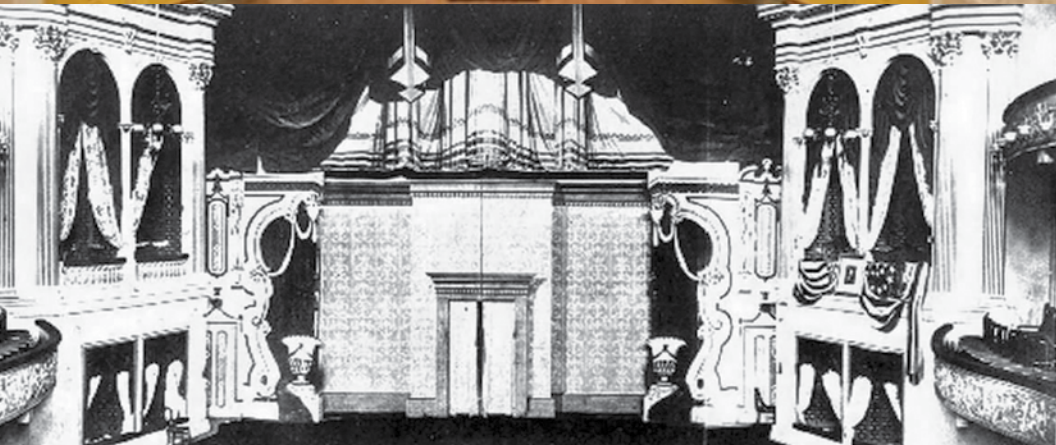
How are they connected to the message of his second inaugural address?

Did you know?

Lincoln stood 6 feet, and 4 inches tall. That might not seem like a big deal compared to today's basketball players, who often stand taller than 7 feet—but remember, the average height of an adult man in 1865 was only 5 feet, and 8 inches. Lincoln definitely stood a head above the rest!

STOP
8

Theatre



Why was Booth able to walk in the Presidential Box without arousing suspicion?

What does *sic semper tyrannis* mean?

Why might Booth have said those words after murdering the president?

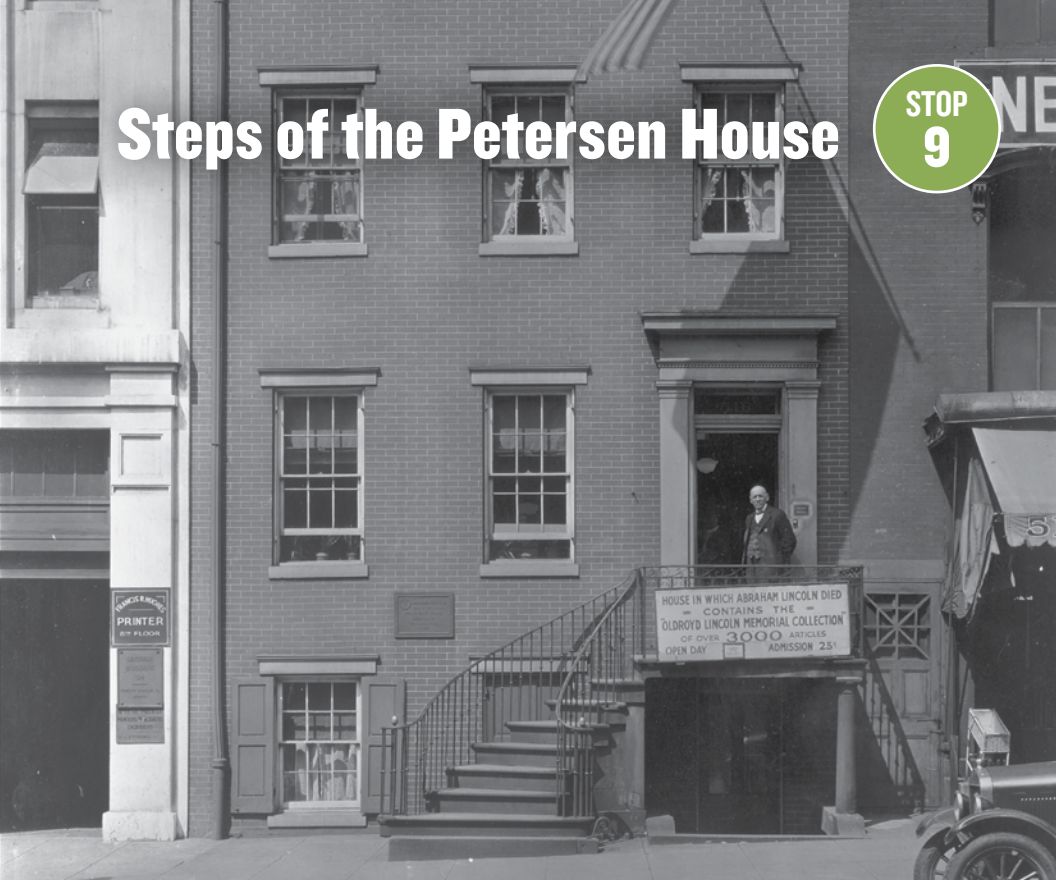
Did you know?

Today, Ford's Theatre is restored to look almost exactly as it did the night of April 14, 1865. Mathew Brady photographed the "crime scene" on the day President Lincoln died, and it is through his photographs that we know exactly what the theatre looked like 150 years ago.

After the assassination in 1865, the federal government took over the theatre, and plays were not seen on the stage again until 1968.

Steps of the Petersen House

STOP
9



Why didn't soldiers take President Lincoln back to the White House if they knew he was dying?

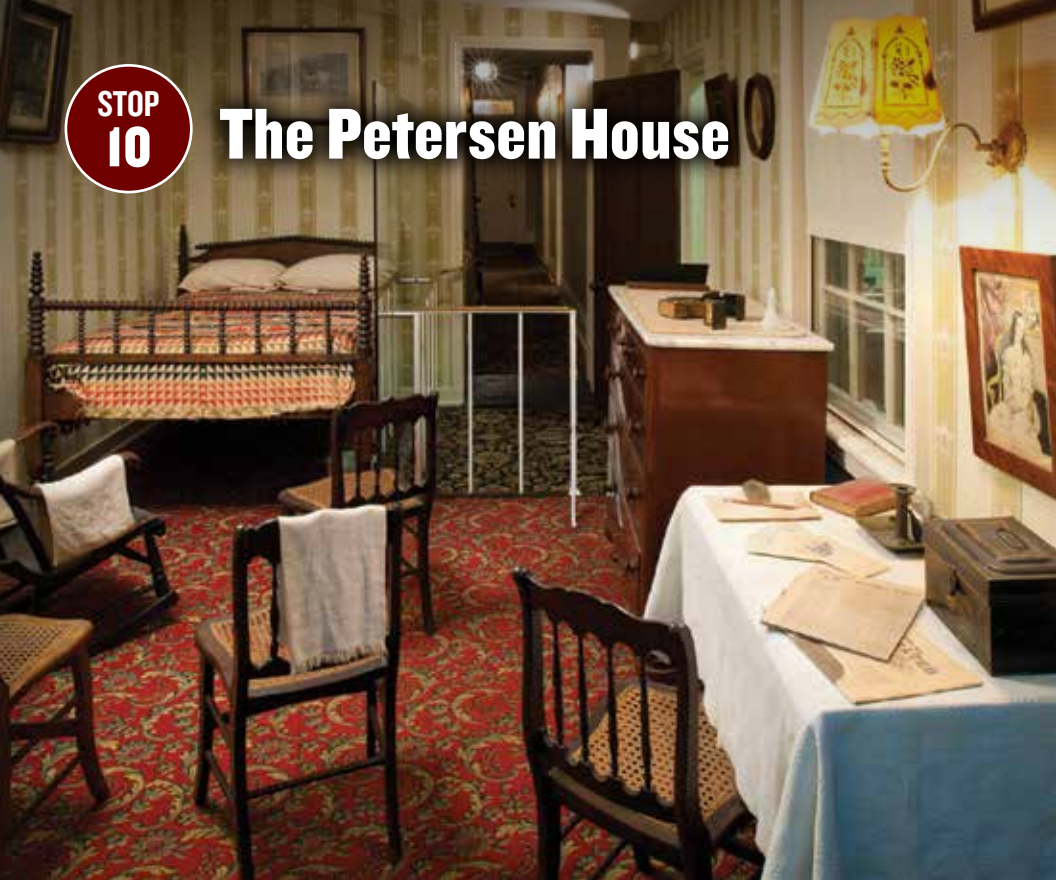
How would you have felt if you were in the theatre that night?

Did you know?

Even though there were no telephones or TV, news of the assassination spread fast. Thousands of people crowded onto Tenth Street and kept vigil throughout the night.

**STOP
10**

The Petersen House



At what time did President Lincoln die?

Where was Mary Lincoln during the night?

Where was Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and what was he doing?



Did you know?

Willie Clark, an army clerk, rented the room in the Petersen

House where Lincoln died. He was out the night of the assassination, which is why Lincoln was taken to his room. Clark came home the next day and slept that night in the same bed that the president died in that morning.

Center-4th Floor

Interactive map of funeral route

STOP
11



How many cities along the train route held funerals for President Lincoln?

Look at the population of each city, and the number of people who attended each funeral. What do those numbers tell us about how people felt about the president's death?

Where is President Lincoln buried?

Did you know?

Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th president, watched President Lincoln's funeral procession pass through New York City. President Roosevelt was just a young boy at the time.

**STOP
12**

Center-4th Floor

Map of Booth's escape route



How many days was Booth on the run?

Where did he stop along the way?

Where did the Union Army catch up with him?

Did you know?

While Booth and Herold were hiding out in a pine thicket, Booth insisted on seeing recent newspapers. He was desperate to hear how people were responding to the assassination. He was shocked and angered to realize that both the North and the South condemned him for his actions.

Center–4th Floor

Tobacco barn

STOP
13



What happened in the tobacco barn?

Do you think Boston Corbett was right to shoot Booth?

Should Booth have been captured and returned to Washington for a trial? What would you have done?

Did you know?

The bullet severed Booth's spinal cord, paralyzing him from the shoulders down. As he lay dying, he asked someone to hold up his hands. As he looked at his hands, he uttered his final words, "useless, useless."

STOP
14

Center—3rd Floor

The unfinished work



Which of Lincoln's words really sticks out for you? Why?

Which image in the video is most powerful to you? Why?

Did you know?

We look to President Lincoln as one of the greatest orators in our history. Unlike almost all of our presidents in recent history, Lincoln wrote all of his own speeches. Also unlike today, Lincoln knew that most people would read his speeches rather than hear them (remember, there was no radio or television). His gift for language is one of the main reasons we revere him as one of our greatest leaders.

Center-3rd Floor

Abraham Lincoln in popular culture

STOP
15



Which two pieces of American currency feature Abraham Lincoln's face?

Where have you seen President Lincoln's image used in the media?



Did you know?

When Lincoln was running for president in 1860 he received

a letter from an 11-year-old girl named Grace Bedell, who encouraged him to grow a beard because she thought it would make him more attractive to voters. Apparently, he took her advice!

Center–3rd Floor

Lincoln Memorial video



Why do you think Martin Luther King, Jr. chose the Lincoln Memorial as the place to deliver his famous “I Have a Dream” speech?

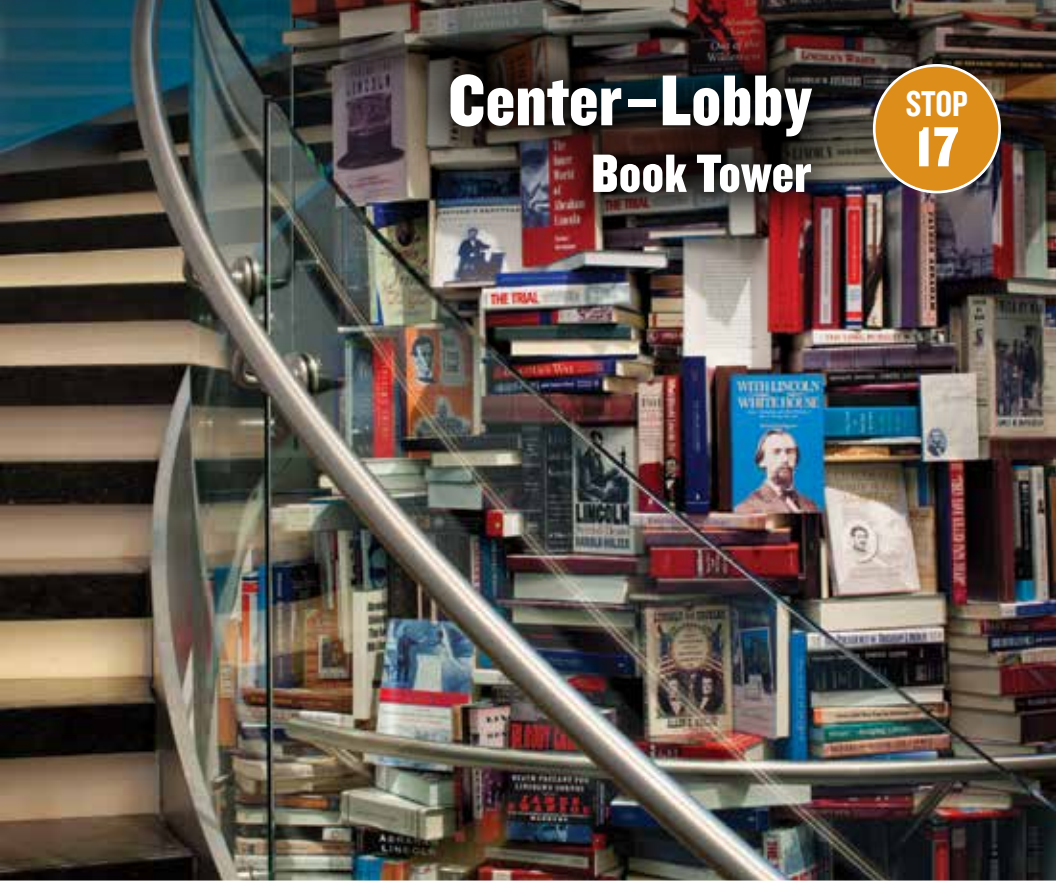


Did you know?

Robert Todd Lincoln, President Lincoln’s only surviving son, lived to be 82 years old and actually attended the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922.

Center-Lobby Book Tower

STOP
17



What do you notice about the book tower?

Why do you think it doesn't go all the way to the ceiling?

What does it tell us about Lincoln that people are still writing so many books about him?

Did you know?

There are 205 titles represented and 6,800 books in the tower. These represent the more than 15,000 titles ever written about Abraham Lincoln, and people are still writing books about him today!

**Now that you have explored Ford's Theatre,
tell us what you think about the
Student Museum Guide.**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/student_guide

Connect with us on social media! #FordsEdu



facebook.com/fordstheatre



twitter.com/fordstheatre



youtube.com/fordstheatre

**For questions, comments and more information about Ford's Education Programs,
contact education@fords.org**

Ford's Theatre | 511 10th St. NW | Washington, DC 20004 | www.fords.org

Cover photos by Gary Erskine.