



## Teacher Guide: “Impact on a Nation” on Fords.org

Prepared by Kevin Murphy

Webpage: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/impact-on-a-nation/>

### Overview of webpage

This page features short descriptions and first-person accounts to see how people around the United States and around the world reacted to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

### Structure of page

- The menu just below the main image navigates to [Lincoln’s Death](#), a subpage on the [Funeral of President Lincoln](#), and to [Investigating the Assassination](#).
- This page has a short introduction /overview before getting into the first-person accounts.
- This also asks the following questions about the first-person accounts presented:
  - As you look at each testimony, consider:
    - How does this response reflect other responses—or not?
    - Who gave the response? What might the person’s reasons be for saying what they did?
    - When did this person talk about their response? Was it soon after the event? Much later?
    - How might that affect what they said?
- The page continues to the first-person accounts, divided into six categories. Each category is a box that provides a brief summary / introduction as the cursor rolls over it. Click each for six different first-person accounts. Each account includes excerpts as well as a link to the full source, most of which are located on the [Remembering Lincoln](#) website.

### Categories and Listing of Primary Source Accounts

- *Poems*
  - Julia Ward Howe
  - William Cullen Bryant
  - Walt Whitman
  - Richard Stoddard
  - Phoebe Cary
  - Walt Whitman
- *Diaries*
  - George Himes
  - Mary Henry
  - Sarah Gooll Putnam
  - Reverend Leonard Francis Smith
  - Horatio Nelson Taft
  - Mary Sheehan Ronan
- *Letters*
  - William H. Kesler

- Jane Betts
- J.D. McClure
- Mary
- Charles A. Jewell
- Dr. Anson G Henry
- *Sermons*
  - Reverend Villeroy Dibble Reed
  - Reverend Denis Wortman
  - Reverend Pliny H. White
  - Rabbi David Einhorn
  - Reverend Jacob Thomas
  - Reverend John George Butler
- *International Responses*
  - Prince Kung, China
  - Pablo Herrera, Ecuador
  - Beinto Juárez, Mexico
  - Florence, Italy
  - Toronto Globe, Canada
  - Queen Victoria, United Kingdom
- *Newspapers*
  - Alabama Beacon
  - Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph
  - El Nuevo Mundo
  - Wisconsin Daily News
  - Nebraska Advertiser
  - New York Herald

## Suggested Activities

1. Pick one of the letters in the “Responses to the Assassination”. After reading it, write your own letter back to the person who wrote it. What surprised you about what they said? What do you wonder? What would you like to know more about? Remember to include some details about yourself in your letter. Send it to your teacher or parent.
2. Read one of the newspaper accounts. Write down the basic points of the article: who, what, where, why, when. Now search the Library of Congress news paper database for an article from your home state written in April, 1865:  
[https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab\\_advanced\\_search](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab_advanced_search)
  - Select your state in the list of states
  - In “Select Year,” enter from 1865 to 1865
  - In the box under “with the phrase” enter “Lincoln” or “assassination”
  - Sort results by date and look for articles from April 1865
  - Read the article(s) you found.

Now compare and contrast what your article says that is different or similar to the one you picked.

3. Make a Google map of where the six international responses featured are located. For each pin, list who wrote it and what kind of response it was (for example: letter, article, speech, etc.). Include a one sentence summary of what they said.
4. After reading one or more poems, write your own poem about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. If you prefer to use music you can write a rap or song.