

Teaching American History Project

Lesson Title: Using published documents
"Lincoln election poster of 1860" from Carol Stepas-Goulart

Grade: 7-8

Length of class time: 45-55 min.

Inquiry (what essential questions are students answering)

Have students answer the following questions:

- What is the purpose of this document?
- Why did the designer change Lincoln's name to Abram and not to Abe? (Abram was the biblical name of Abraham, so Abram is another nickname or shortened version of the name Abraham. Abram became the father of Israel. Therefore the name suggests Lincoln will play a similar role for America).
- How was the poster designed to hang? Why did the designer want it to hang that way?
- Why did the designer use a flag theme?
- How many stars are in the circle around Lincoln? Is the number of stars significant?

Objectives:

- Students will learn about the election of 1860 and Abraham Lincoln's campaign. They will apply that knowledge to Lincoln's second campaign in 1864.
- Students will design a banner reflecting Lincoln's 1864 campaign.

Activities/Background Information:

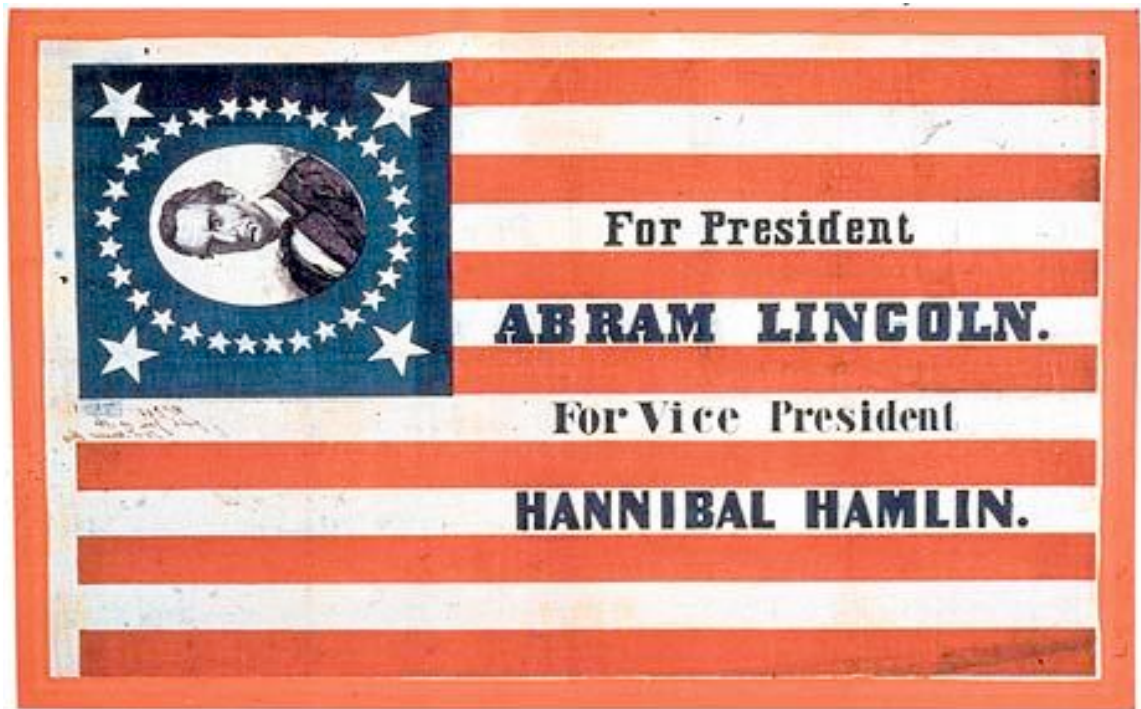
1. Students will work as partners to analyze the election banner (published document) called "Lincoln Election Poster from 1860." You can go to www.archives.gov to see the poster or print it out for students. Teacher will share background information about the 1860 presidential campaign and what propaganda was used to promote candidates. This poster supports the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln. The Republican Party met in Chicago and chose Lincoln as their presidential candidate and Hannibal Hamlin as vice presidential candidate.
2. Student groups will research on the 1860 and 1864 elections and answer these questions:
 - Who was the vice-presidential candidate in 1864? Why was it not Hamlin?
 - What was different about the 1864 campaign and the 1860 campaign? What was happening in the United States at that time?
 - What were the biggest issues in the 1860 election? What were the biggest issues in the 1864 election?

Materials:

Use large construction paper, markers and a picture of Lincoln, have students design a banner – construct a “New banner style” poster for Lincoln to use in the 1864 election. Lincoln wants a similar design to the 1860 banner with some kind of patriotic or flag format. A slogan can be used also.

Connecticut framework performance standards:

- Students are able to examine published documents and posters
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical events in American History
- Students are given the experience in analyzing documents



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