



Unit Study based on

# NEW YORK'S BRAVEST

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## **Social Studies**

### **Courage**

“When others ran away from danger, Mose ran toward it.” Mose is courageous.

Talk about what this means with your student. Why would someone put their own life in danger to rescue someone else?

Talk with your student about a hero. What role does a hero play in society? What character traits does a true hero possess? Does your student know anyone who he considers a hero?

Complete “What Is Courage?” simple fold book and add it to your lapbook.

### **Patriotism: Being an American**

Mose is an American hero. When you hear stories about people like Mose who act in wonderful, selfless ways, it makes you feel good. When those people represent your country, it makes you even more proud because you share something with them!

Culture assimilates these stories into our identity, to represent what kind of a person “an American” should be. What kind of traits does your child think of when they think of an American?

### **Death**

Why don't people want to admit where Mose is? Discuss grieving, and how it is difficult for people to accept that someone that they love is gone. The people of New York relied on Mose. He gave them hope and security. What happens now that Mose is gone? What are some examples of how someone who has died has left a legacy and is still with you?

### **Abraham Lincoln**

The story mentions the people speculating that maybe Mose went to work for Abraham Lincoln. Does your student know who Abraham Lincoln is?

Abraham Lincoln lived from 1809 until 1865. He was the 16th President of the United States of America.

Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He had very little formal schooling and was mostly self-educated; he loved to read books. Learn more about Lincoln by reading [\*Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books\*](#) and *Abraham Lincoln* by D'Aulaire.

Use the coloring pages provided to make a book about Abraham Lincoln. If your student does not enjoy coloring, print the pages on colored paper and simply make a book.

### Clues to the Past

When does this book take place? Look at the clues in the illustrations. Look at the firetruck and pickaxe. Is this story modern, or did it take place in the past? The author also leaves clues: mining gold, the newspaper costs one penny, the horse drawn trolley, speculations that maybe Mose went to work for Lincoln. Lincoln's term in office was from 1861-1865.

Record the details from the illustrations in the “Clues to the Past?” simple fold book and add it to your lapbook.

### September 11, 2001

Read the dedication page. If your child is not familiar with the events that happened on that day, discuss it with them in an age-appropriate manner.

### New York City

New York City is the biggest city in the state of New York and the most populous city in the US!

Let your older student research a bit about New York City. She can type five facts she learned on the page provided and add it to her lapbook or notebook.

### Language Arts

#### Legends

Read the historical note at the beginning of the book with your student. How does he feel about there being a real Mose in history? Does it make him more interested in the story?

Tell your student that Mose has become an American legend, similar to Johnny Appleseed. What parts of the story does your student think are true? Which details are imaginary? Use the “Mose: Fact or Fiction” mini book to reinforce this lesson.

## Vocabulary

rumor: a story or statement in general circulation without confirmation of certainty as to facts; gossip, hearsay

Complete “What Is a Rumor?” simple fold book and add it to your lapbook.

## Hero—Letter Writing

If your student has anyone they consider a hero, have your student write them a thank you letter. If your student can't think of anyone, have them write a letter to a policeman or firefighter. This would be a good week to visit your local police or fire station.

## Art

Look at the illustrations of Mose. How did the illustrator portray him as a hero? What physical characteristics make you think of Mose as brave? What if the illustrator had drawn him as small, shy, and weak? Would you believe that he was the same man from the story? The illustrator knows what details people will respond to that will make Mose's identity believable.

Have your child try and draw different types of people with different agendas or careers. See if he knows how to leave clues as to the type of person that it is. Ideas: a hero, a robber/bad guy, a pirate, a chef, a doctor, a cowboy, a wrestler, a ninja.

Another game that you can play: fold a piece of paper in half. Tell your child what you are going to draw (for example, a cowboy) on the top half. Do not let them see what you are drawing. When you reach the waist, open the paper and extend your lines down to the bottom half so your child knows where to start drawing. Then fold the paper in half, and let your child draw the bottom half. No peeking at the top! When you are done, open the paper and see if your ideas of what a cowboy looks like match up! A variation on this is to have your child draw one thing and you draw another. You could draw papers out of a hat for this. When you unfold your drawing and see what a person looks like when they are a ninja on the top and a chef on the bottom, it will be interesting!

## Math

### Ordinal Numbers

Mose rescues someone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Draw an apartment building on fire. Make a “fireman” and call out floor numbers (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.) and have your student move the fireman to the different floors to rescue the person and put out the fire! Talk about concepts like *the basement* and *the lobby*. Why would it be important for a firefighter to know exactly what floor they need to be on?

Subtracting large numbers:

How long ago did this story take place?

How long ago did September 11, 2001 take place?

### Multiplication/Division

Mose is depicted carrying four people out of a burning building. How many people can the average person carry? How many times better at carrying people is Mose than the average person?

Mose lifts the trolley. How heavy is a trolley? A car is between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds. A trolley would probably be heavier. Assuming Mose can lift a car, and an average strong person can lift 200 pounds, how many times stronger is Mose than an average strong person?

Mose swims across the Hudson River in the book. The Hudson river is 4500 feet wide. A swimming pool is about 165 feet long. How many lengths of a swimming pool would you have to swim to swim as far as Mose did?

## Science

### Discuss Fire Safety

It is important to get out fast. Your child should know to leave any toys or games, and never to go back out into a burning building.

Crawl low to avoid heat and smoke.

Feel doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If it feels hot, use another exit, when possible.

Meet outside and call 911 for help.

Write some fire safety rules in the mini-book provided.

### Other Activities

Teach your child to stop, drop, and roll if they are on fire.

You may wish to examine your home for fire hazards.

Choose a location where you will meet outside if you escape the house separately.

Discuss escape routes. Does your house have two exits?

Have a fire drill.

The fire truck in this book is pulled by horses. Discuss how this impacts the fire fighters ability to get to a fire. If possible, take a trip to a local fire station. Write about your visit in the mini-book provided.

### Fire hydrants

In this book the water for putting out the fire is carried in the trolley. Today we have fire hydrants so the truck does not have to carry so much water. This is more effective in putting out a fire, because you do not know how much water you will need. Has your child seen a fire hydrant? If you have one near you, examine it; show your child where the hoses would hook on to the fire hydrant.

Mose lifts the trolley. How heavy is a trolley? A car is between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds. A trolley would probably be heavier. Let your child try to lift your car. Do an experiment by picking up increasingly heavy things to see what the heaviest thing your child can lift is. Weigh it.

### **Just For Fun!**

Teach your child how to play checkers!

Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use.

**Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically.**

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**Directions:** Cut out pages. Color. Stack together with cover on top and staple at the top. Read the book together.

# MY LITTLE BOOK ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Abraham Lincoln loved to read books.

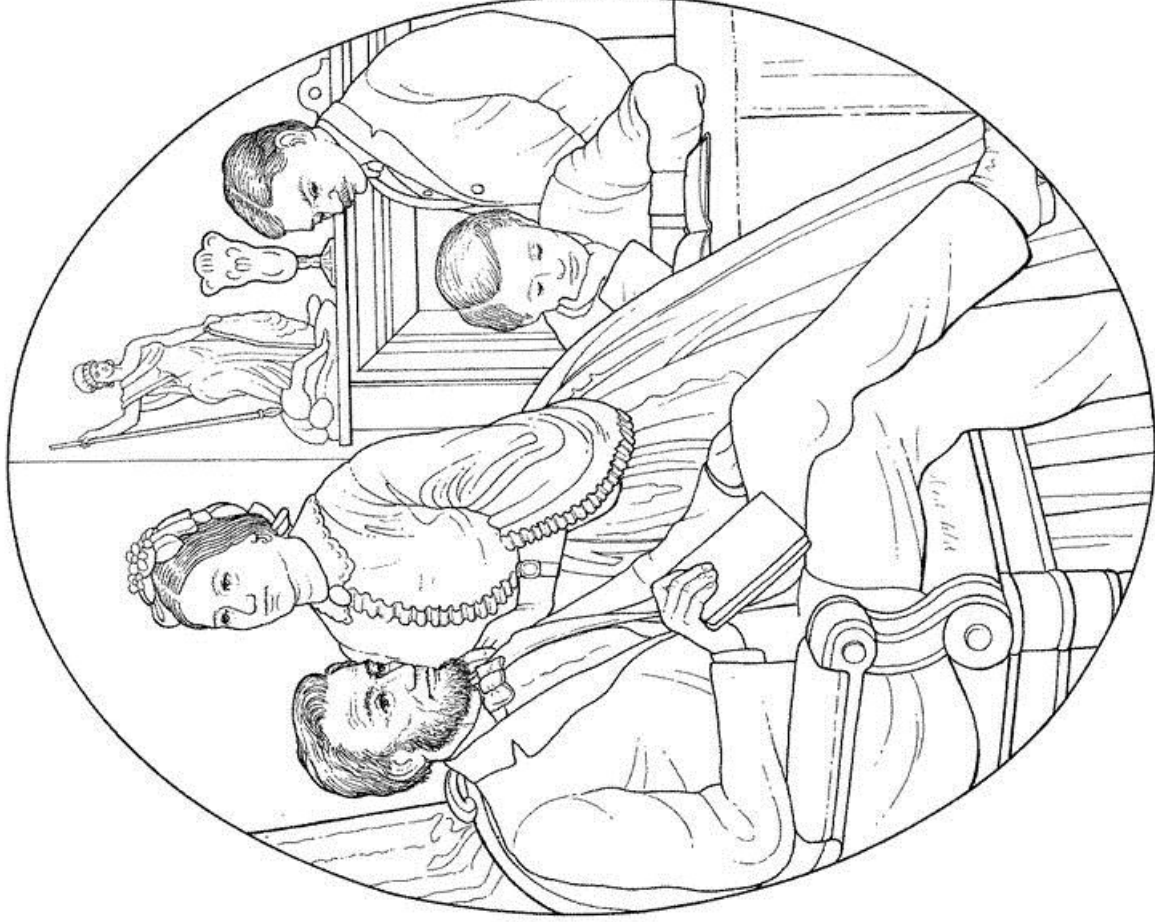


He was a hard worker.

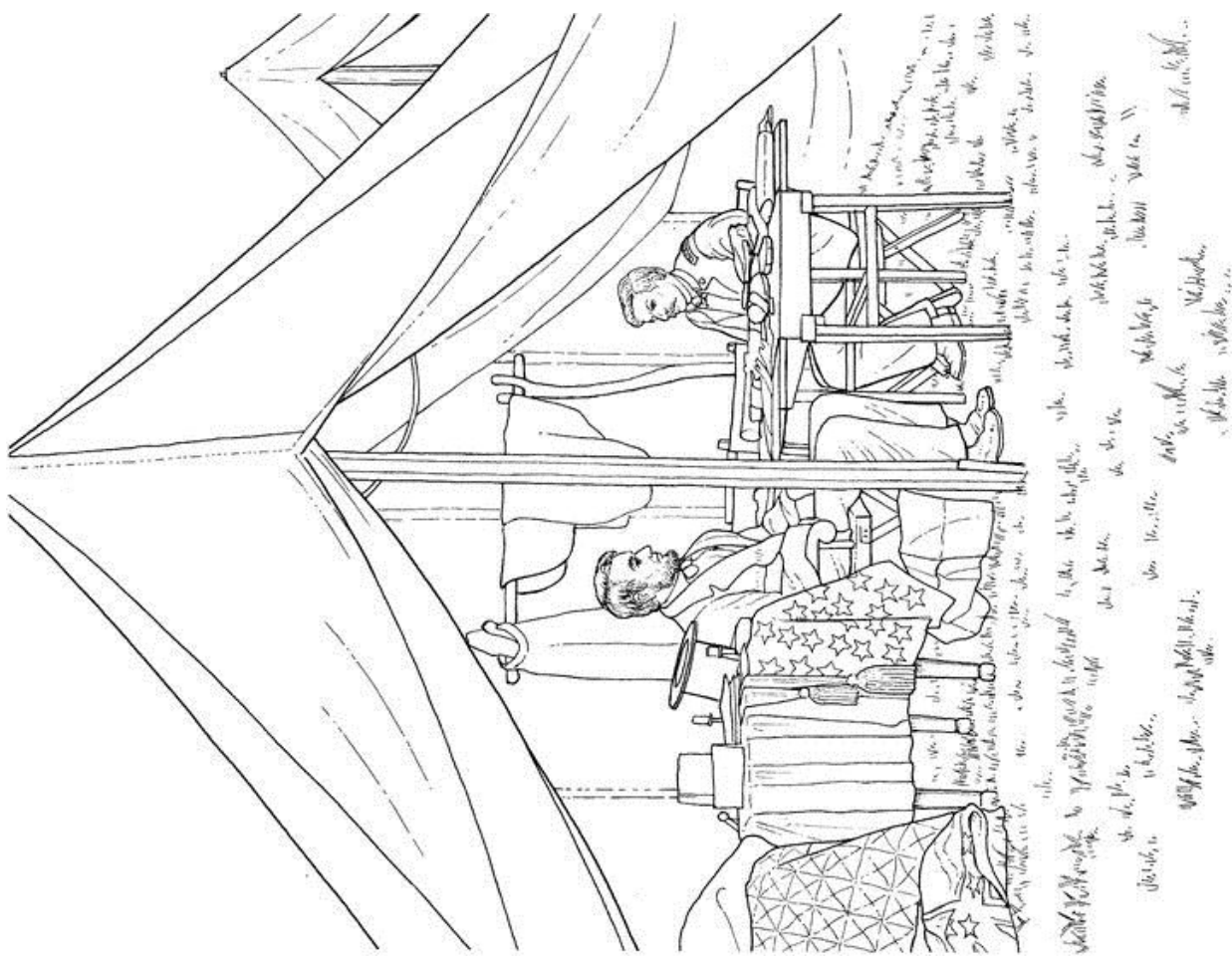




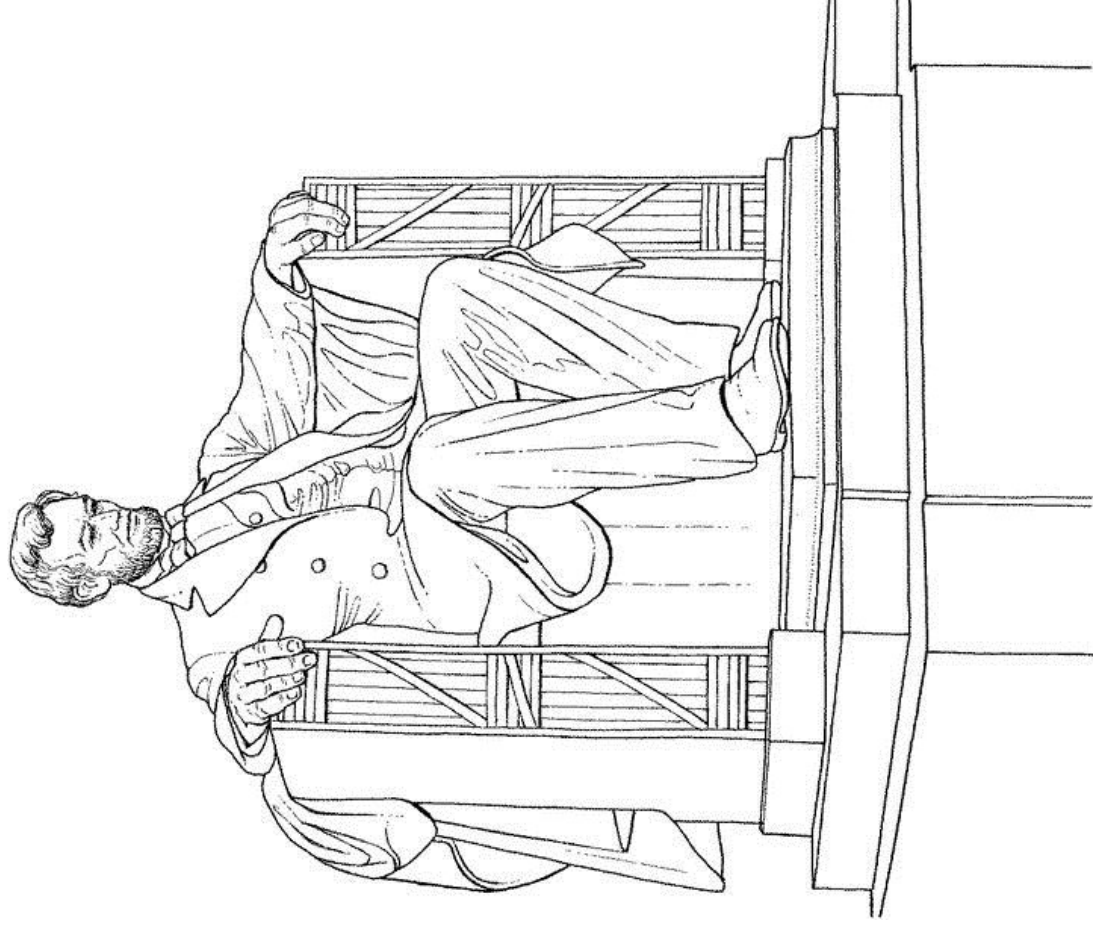
Lincoln married Mary Todd.  
They had four sons.



Abraham Lincoln was President  
during The Civil War.



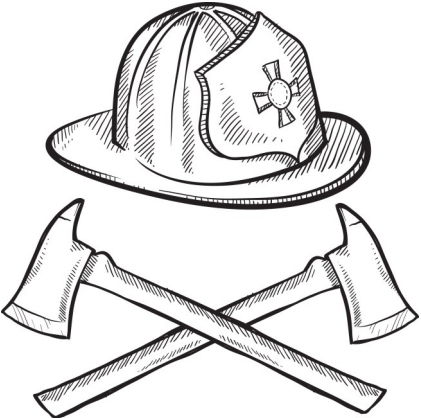
There is a statue in Washington D.C. to help us remember Abraham Lincoln.



He gave a famous speech,  
"The Gettysburg Address."



**Directions:** Cut on the solid black lines. Fold book in thirds on the dotted lines. On the inside of the book write a title for each section; True, Possibly True, and False. Remind your student that in legends some information is fact, some information is fiction, and some information might be true but know one knows for sure. You can write your own sentences in your book, or you can use the ones provided at the bottom of this page to paste to the sections of the book.

		<p>MOSE:</p> <p>FACT OR</p> <p>FICTION?</p> 
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Mose was 8 feet tall.	Mose Humphreys was a firefighter.	Mose lifted a trolley car into the air.
Mose's hands were as big as Virginia hams.	Mose rescued a baby in a fire.	Mose could swim the Hudson River in two strokes.
People did special things for Mose.	Mose was courageous.	Mose died rescuing people from a fire.

# MY VISIT TO THE FIRE STATION





# *Five Fast Facts*

## *New York City*

fact  
one

fact  
two

fact  
three

fact  
four

fact  
five

Cut out top portion as one piece. Cut out long rectangle with an exacto knife. Cut out bottom portion as one piece. Cut on blue lines. Roll up bottom portion and stick them through the rectangle on the top portion.

# FIRE SAFETY



## CLUES TO THE PAST



## WHAT IS A RUMOR?

## WHAT IS COURAGE?

