

Notes to staff

Lincoln's Beard

- This is designed for assembly or tutor time.
- You can listen to the Pearl episode anywhere you get your podcasts to get the full story: <https://www.pixl.org.uk/podcasts>
- The assembly has been edited to fit more with students and relevant to them.
- There are notes at the bottom of each slide for reference.
- There is a part 2 of this story coming soon!
- We would love to hear how it has gone, email admin@pixl.org.uk

The logo for PIXL, featuring the word "PIXL" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "i" is lowercase and has a small orange dot above it. The background is a solid orange color with decorative circular patterns: a dotted circle in the top left, a solid circle in the top right, and a striped circle in the bottom right.

PIXL

Lincoln's Beard

IGNITING LEADERS, CHANGING LIVES



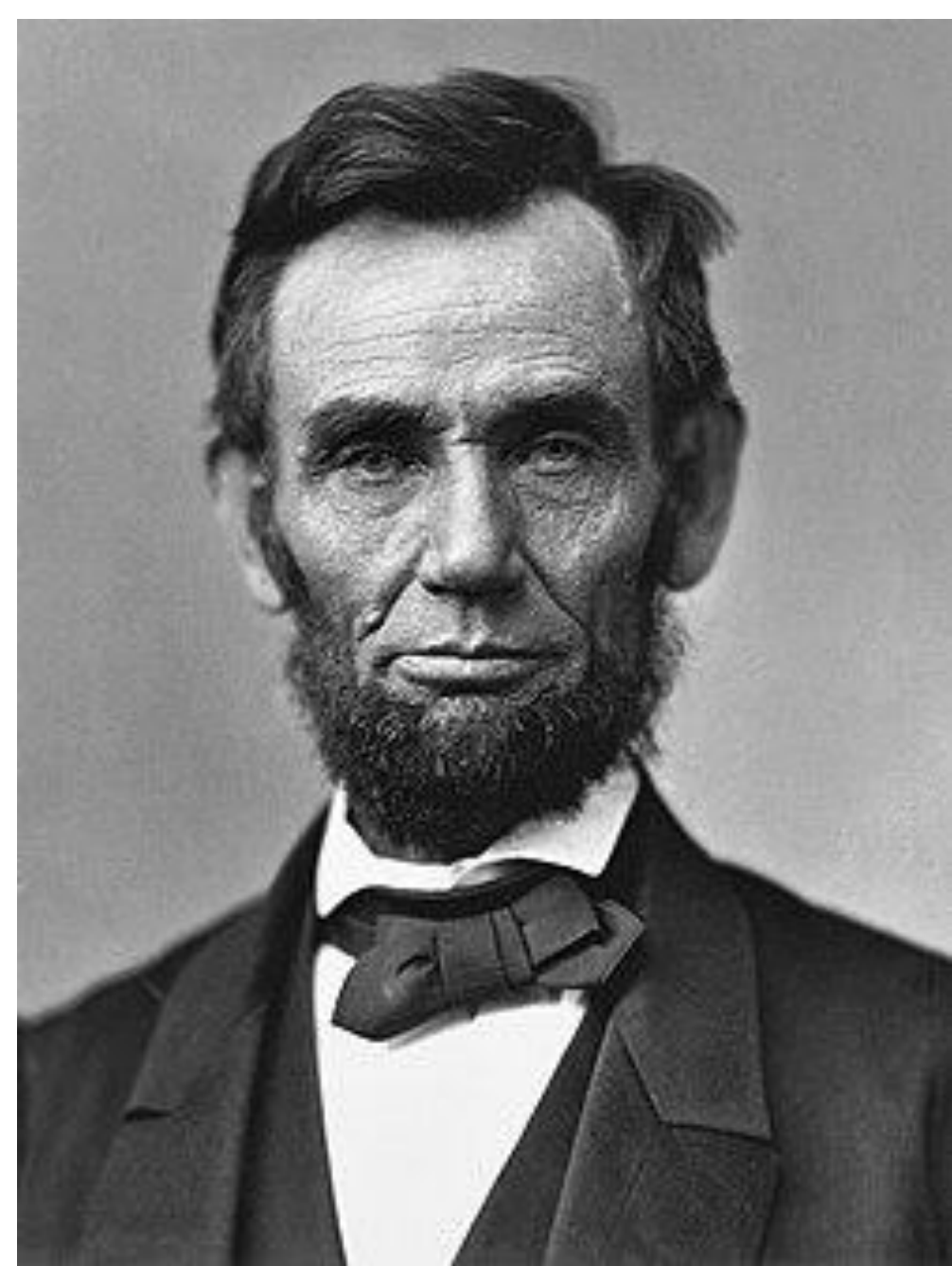
You won't have heard of this lady.

This is Grace Bedell

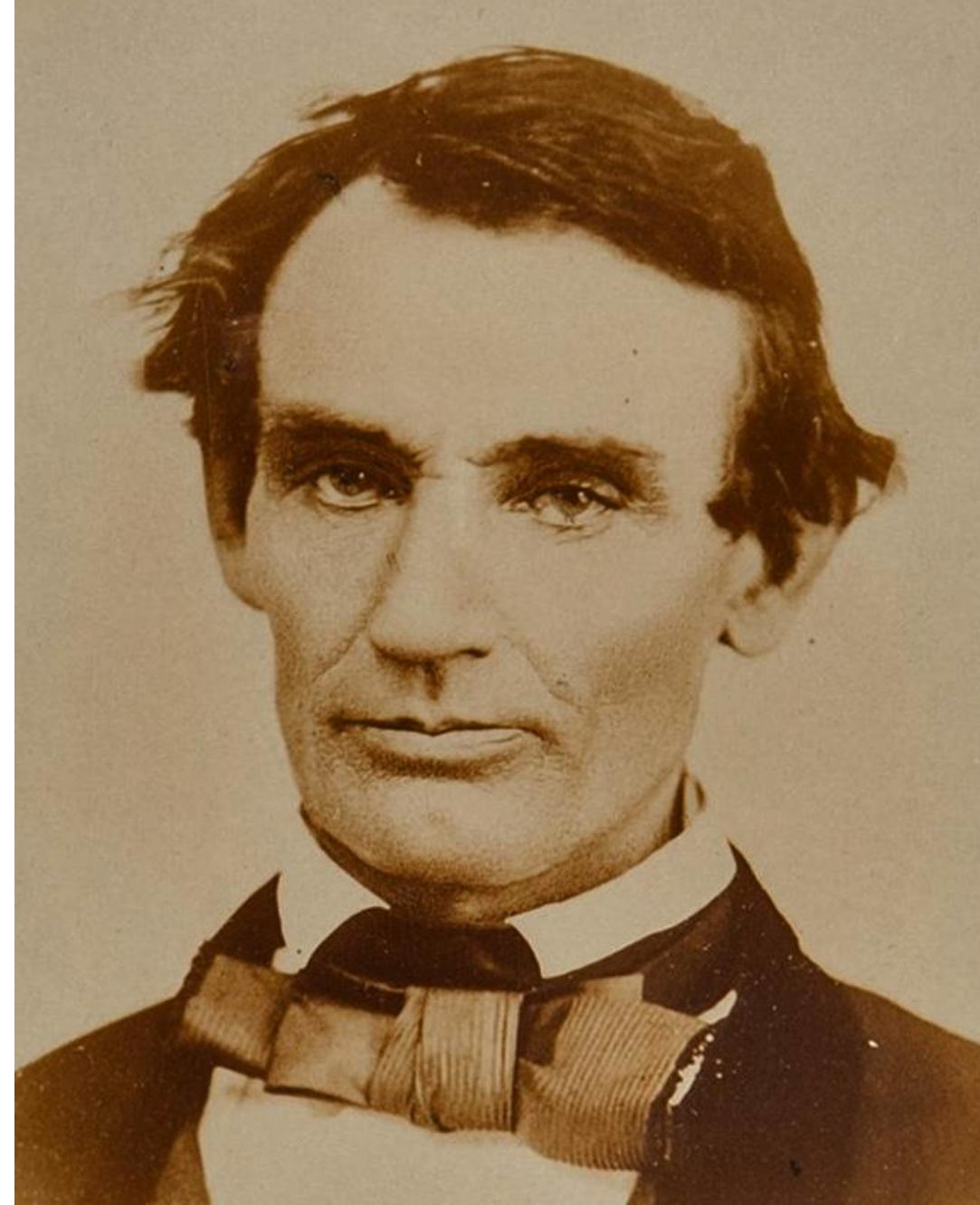
You will have probably heard of this man.

This is President Abraham Lincoln.

How are these two people connected?



**Before Lincoln was
elected President,
he looked like this.**



A letter... and a change

Dear Sir,

My father has just come from the fair and brought home your picture and Mr. [Hamlin's](#). I am a little girl, only 11 years old, but I want you to be President of the United States very much so I hope you won't think me very bold to write to such a great man as you are.

I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you any way and if you let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you, you would look a great deal better, for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President. My father is going to vote for you, and if I was a man, I would vote for you too but I will try to get everyone to vote for you that I can.

I must not write any more, answer this letter right off.

Goodbye!

Grace Bedell

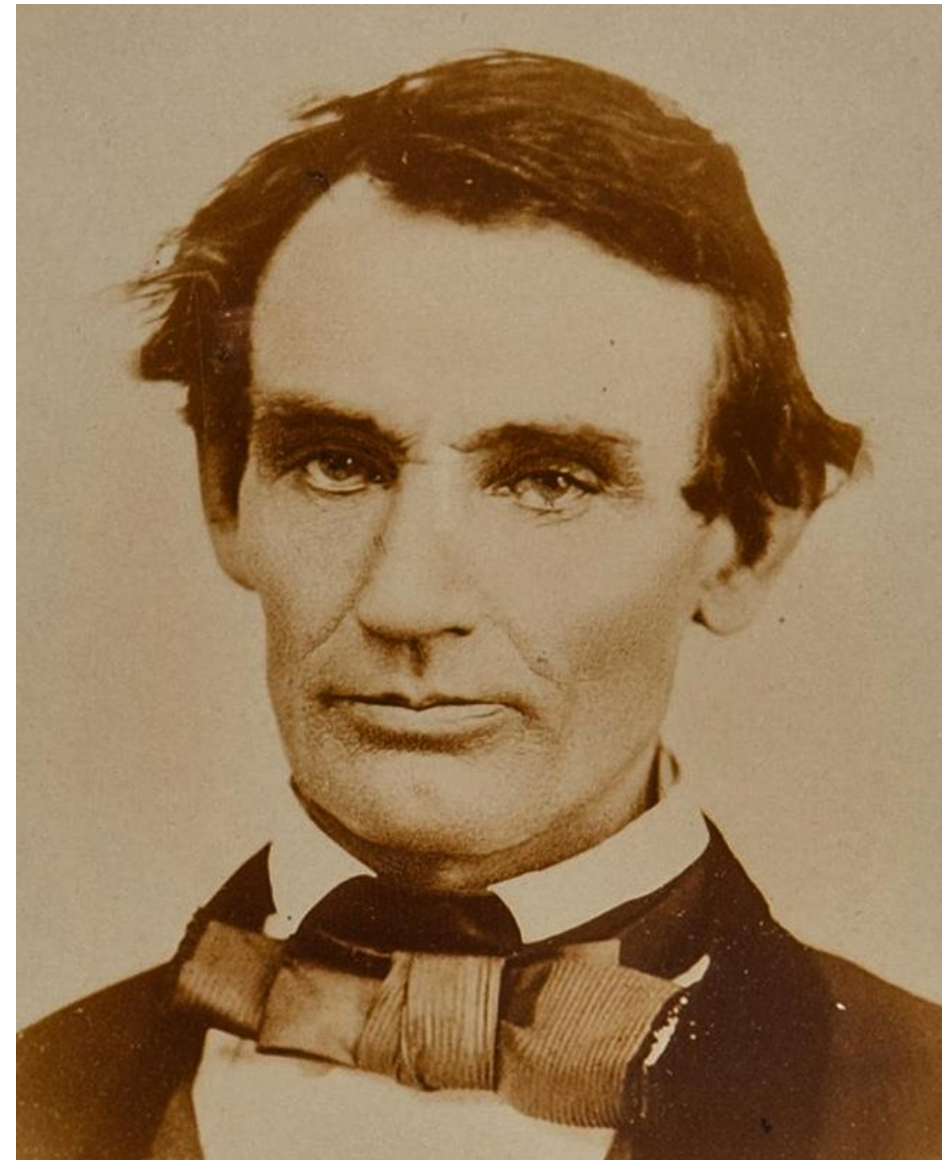
An unexpected reply...

Lincoln replied quickly. He thanked Grace for her letter and then said:

...as for the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a silly affectation if I were to begin it now?

Your very sincere well-wisher,

Abraham Lincoln.



The letter made a difference!

What happened next?

- Lincoln grew a beard just like Grace had said he should.
- He was the first President to have a full beard, breaking tradition.
- The image of him with a beard became the iconic picture of his Presidency.
- He met Grace at a rally that was being held when he was elected President.

'Gracie,' he said, 'look at my whiskers. I have been growing them for you.'

Why did Lincoln grow a beard?!

1) Perhaps he had already been thinking about it, but Grace's letter helped push him to make a decision.

- Sometimes we just need some encouragement to be brave.
- He was the first President to do this, so it felt a bigger move!
- Sometimes we think what we do or say doesn't matter, but it does!

How can we help others be braver?

This week...

- Who can you encourage?
- Who can you influence?
- Where can you use your voice to suggest something that needs to change?

Why did Lincoln grow a beard?!

2) It was an outside sign of an inward change.

- When you go to a new school you have a new uniform.
- You might get a new planner when you start the new year.
- If you want to change your identity, sometimes you might change what you wear.
- Some people change names, or hair colour or style as a 'fresh start'.
- Lincoln grew a beard at the start of being the President.

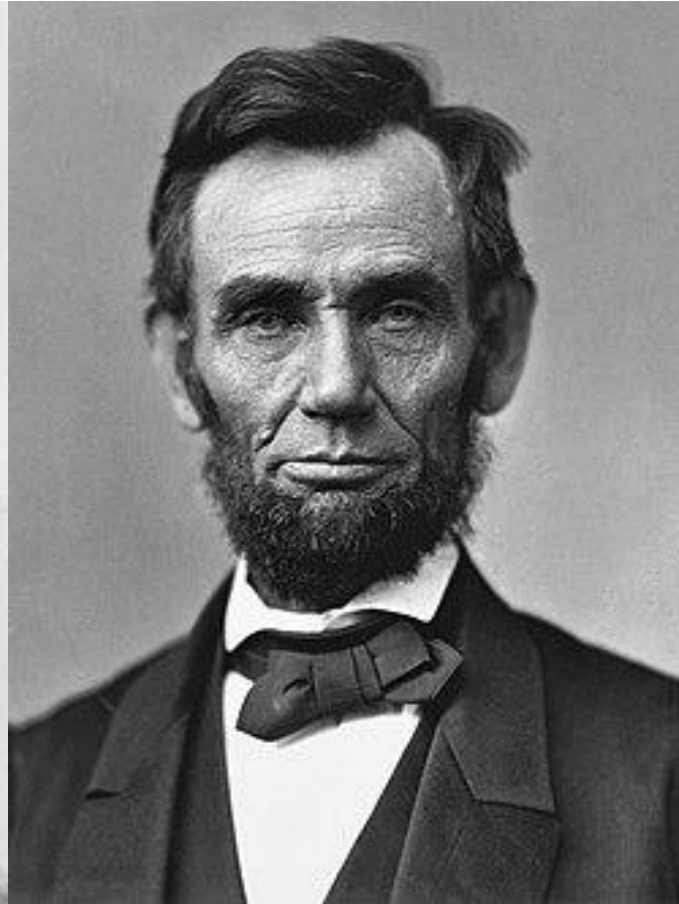
How can we make an outside change to show the inside change this week?

This week...

- If you are going to be an organised person, how will your school bag change?
- If you want to be someone who tries your best, what will your handwriting look like?
- If you want to be someone who is proud of themselves, what will your uniform look like?

SHOW DON'T TELL

Not everyone was happy about the beard!



This man's life and career was nearly ruined by Lincoln's decision to grow a beard.



The logo for PiXL, featuring the word 'PiXL' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is lowercase and has a white dot above it. The background is dark grey with abstract geometric patterns, including a grid of small circles on the left and concentric circles on the right.

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