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Interview with Abraham Lincoln

Interviewer: Good day, Mr. Lincoln! We're thrilled to have the opportunity to sit down and talk with you today.

Abraham Lincoln: Thank you kindly. Please, call me Abe.

Interviewer: Wonderful, Abe. Let's start with your early years. Growing up in a log cabin in Kentucky, did you ever envision yourself becoming the 16th President of the United States?

Abraham Lincoln: Not at all. I had very little formal education, but I always loved to read. Becoming President seemed like an impossible dream for a boy born in a humble log cabin.

Interviewer: Your journey from a self-taught individual to an important political figure is truly inspiring. Can you share some of your experiences that shaped your views on equality and justice?

Abraham Lincoln: Well, I always believed in the idea that all men are created equal. My experiences as a self-taught lawyer, interacting with people from all walks of life, showed me the importance of fairness and justice. I grew to hate the institution of slavery and believed it went against the principles of our great nation.

Interviewer: Your debates with Stephen A. Douglas during the Illinois Senate race gained national attention. What were your thoughts during those intense debates?

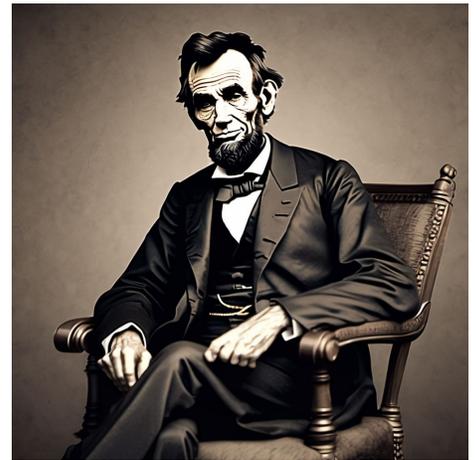
Abraham Lincoln: The debates were a crucial time in my political career. I wanted to make it clear that I opposed the spread of slavery into new territories. The discussions were heated, but they allowed me to talk about my beliefs on the issue and set the stage for my future.

Interviewer: In 1860, you were elected as the 16th President of the United States. How did you feel about taking on such a significant role during a difficult time in our nation's history?

Abraham Lincoln: It was a heavy burden, no doubt. The country was divided, and tensions were high. My primary goal was to preserve the Union and meet the challenges we faced. Little did I know that the Civil War would soon engulf the nation.

Interviewer: The Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863, was a landmark moment in American history. Can you tell us about the decision-making process behind that proclamation?

Abraham Lincoln: The decision wasn't easy, but I believed it was necessary. The Emancipation Proclamation aimed to free the enslaved individuals in Confederate-held territories, shifting the





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focus of the Civil War toward ending slavery. It was a strategic move to weaken the Confederacy and bring us closer to the principles of freedom.

Interviewer: The Gettysburg Address is often regarded as one of the greatest speeches in American history. What inspired you to deliver such a profound message?

Abraham Lincoln: The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the war, and I wanted to honor the fallen soldiers and express the importance of preserving the Union. I spoke of a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, emphasizing our commitment to democracy.

Interviewer: Now that the war is over, what do you hope future generations would take away from your presidency?

Abraham Lincoln: I hope they remember the importance of unity, equality, and the enduring principles that guide our nation. The struggle for freedom and justice continues, and it's the responsibility of each generation to carry the torch forward.

Interviewer: Thank you, Abe, for sharing your insights and experiences with us. Your legacy as the Great Emancipator and a champion of democracy will forever be remembered.

Abraham Lincoln: It was my pleasure. May the nation continue to strive for a more perfect union.

1. What experiences did Abraham Lincoln say shaped his views on equality and justice? _____

2. What did Abraham Lincoln want to make clear in his debates with Stephen Douglas? _____

3. What was the purpose of the Emancipation Proclamation? _____

4. What was Abraham Lincoln's inspiration for the Gettysburg Address? _____
