**Lincoln**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: Let's take a look at the lesson question. |
| 00:00:02 | How did Abraham Lincoln become the leader of the new Republican Party? In the 1850s, the question of how to handle the slavery issue as new states and territories were added to the United States was on every leader's mind. The differences between the North and the South tore the existing political parties apart. In this segment, you will learn how the Republican Party |
| 00:00:25 | formed in the 1850s as a reaction to the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which address slavery in the Western territories. |

**Section 2**

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| 00:00:01 | The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, sponsored by senator |
| 00:00:05 | Stephen Douglas, sharpened the debate over slavery. Douglas is shown here. The act created the Kansas and Nebraska territories. It allowed for popular sovereignty within each territory to decide whether they would or would not have slavery. Popular sovereignty means a vote of the people. The act overturned the Missouri Compromise of 1820, |
| 00:00:29 | which had outlawed slavery in the territory that was now Kansas and Nebraska. Douglas though his act was a compromise. But it angered many in the North. After the act was passed, violence erupted between the anti-slavery and pro-slavery settlers in Kansas. The Republican Party was formed in 1854 in direct opposition to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. |
| 00:00:54 | Many political factions in the North came together to make the new party-- the anti-slavery, or Conscience Whigs; the Free-Soilers, who wanted to make sure Western land went to farmers and not slave owners; and the Northern Democrats, who opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the spread of slavery into the West. |

**Section 4**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The Republican Party formed in 1854 at a meeting |
| 00:00:04 | held in Ripon, Wisconsin, at the place shown here. It is based on the following platform. The Republicans oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act. They wanted to modernize the nation, expand banking, and build railroads. They also believe in free labor or the right of white men to get work without having to compete with slave labor. They opposed the Dred Scott decision, which allowed |
| 00:00:27 | slavery in all US territories. The first Republican presidential candidate was John C. Fremont who won 11 of 16 Northern states in 1856, but lost to Democrat James Buchanan. |

**Section 6**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The Republican Party is still one of the two major |
| 00:00:03 | political parties in the United States today. Some of its current goals are to maintain a strong military force, reduce government spending, reduce regulation of business to help the economy grow, and lower taxes for all Americans. |

**Section 7**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: How did Abraham Lincoln become the leader of |
| 00:00:03 | the new Republican Party? You now know the forces and events that changed the political landscape in the mid-1800s and helped lead to the creation of the Republican Party. In this segment, we'll look at Abraham Lincoln's character and the political skills that guided his career. We'll also look at his complex views on slavery. |

**Section 8**

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| 00:00:01 | Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President |
| 00:00:03 | of the United States. He led the nation through the American Civil War. Lincoln was born in poverty in a one-room cabin in Kentucky. He was a self-educated lawyer and state legislator. He opposed the expansion of slavery into the West. And he was elected president in 1860. Abraham Lincoln began his career as a shopkeeper and post master. |
| 00:00:25 | He then became a surveyor, a person who measures land for building and setting boundaries. In 1832, he served as a captain in the Black Hawk War. The Black Hawk War was a conflict between white settlers and American Indians in northern Illinois and Wisconsin. In 1835, he began his first term in the Illinois state legislature as a Whig. |
| 00:00:48 | He was reelected three times after that term. While in the legislature, he taught himself law, and was admitted to the bar in 1837. He also served a single term in the US House of Representatives as a Whig, from 1847 1849. After completing his single term, he chose not to run again, because his opposition to the Mexican War made him unpopular. |
| 00:01:12 | He returned home to Illinois and resumed his career as a lawyer. After several successful years of practicing law, of Lincoln ended his retirement from politics. When the Kansas-Nebraska Act became law in 1854, Lincoln did not want to see slavery spread in the West. And he joined the new Republican Party in 1856. |

**Section 10**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Lincoln's views on slavery were complicated. |
| 00:00:04 | He outlined those views in a speech at Peoria, Illinois, in 1854. You can see a portion of the speech here. Publicly, he objected to the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the use of popular sovereignty as a way of deciding the future of slavery in the new territories. He said he believed that the African Americans had natural rights, and that slavery itself was wrong. |
| 00:00:26 | But Lincoln did not want at this time to argue for the abolition of slavery in the US completely. He thought it was impossible that African Americans and whites could live as true equals. Lincoln personally believed slavery was wrong, but he also did not want the issue of slavery to split the country forever. Therefore, while he forcefully believed that slavery should |
| 00:00:47 | not spread to the new states and territories, he also did not call for slavery to be abolished in the South, where it already existed. |

**Section 12**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Let's take another look at the question. |
| 00:00:03 | How did Abraham Lincoln become the leader of the new Republican Party? You've learned about the political journey of Abraham Lincoln from a young Whig who retired from politics only to be driven back into the arena by the same forces that helped create the Republican Party. In this segment, you'll learn how the path of Lincoln's own career and the Republican Party came together at a |
| 00:00:25 | critical moment in US history. |

**Section 13**

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| 00:00:02 | TEACHER: Lincoln decided to run against Stephen Douglas |
| 00:00:04 | for the US Senate in 1858. At that time, US senators were not elected directly by the voters. Voters cast their ballots for local legislator, who chose a senator. Lincoln would be the new senator for Illinois if the Republican Party won a majority in the state legislature. |
| 00:00:22 | Lincoln and Douglas both agreed to a series of debates across the state of Illinois. Stephen Douglas was a US senator from Illinois who had the nickname Little Giant, because he was short, but very forceful and dominant as a leader. Today, he is best known for his 1858 debates against Lincoln. Douglas was a Democratic Party leader who believed in popular |
| 00:00:44 | sovereignty. He wanted a transcontinental central railroad route from Chicago, and he wrote the Kansas Nebraska Act to get Southern support for his goal. Abraham Lincoln ran against Stephen Douglas in 1858 for the US Senate seat from Illinois. They disagreed on how to handle slavery. Neither Douglas nor Lincoln called for the total abolition |
| 00:01:07 | of slavery in 1858. Douglas sponsored the Kansas Nebraska Act, supported popular sovereignty, thought slavery could be treated as a local issue. Now, Lincoln opposed the Kansas, Nebraska Act, did not support popular sovereignty, did not want slavery to spread. Neither Douglas nor Lincoln called for the total abolition |
| 00:01:31 | of slavery in 1858. Now, as you read this quotation from Stephen Douglas during the debate, let's take a good listen to this. "If the people are opposed to slavery, they will elect representatives to that body who will, by unfriendly legislation, effectually prevent the introduction of it in their midst. If on the contrary, they are for it, their legislation will |
| 00:01:56 | favor its extension." Douglas felt that people in each state should decide the slavery question. He wanted to keep the issue local instead of having a national policy. Now let's read this response from Lincoln. "Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate |
| 00:02:20 | extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all states." Now, the word arrest means stop. Lincoln felt popular sovereignty was the wrong policy. He believed the Union would eventually become all free or all slave. |

**Section 15**

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| 00:00:01 | The Democrats won a majority of the Illinois legislature, |
| 00:00:04 | and Douglas kept his Senate seat. But Lincoln's campaign and his performance in the debate made him a national figure. Republicans remembered Lincoln as they looked to the 1860 presidential election. Lincoln delivered a famous speech on June 16, 1858, at the Illinois Republican Convention in Springfield, Illinois. |
| 00:00:25 | In it, he argued that, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." He meant that if the nation did not come to an agreement on slavery, it would not survive. Lincoln woried that the Dred Scott decision would lead to slavery being legalized in all states. He felt that the United States would become all slave or all free, and he did not want to see it become all slave. |

**Section 17**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: As the 1860 presidential election |
| 00:00:04 | approached, the Republicans met in Chicago to choose their candidate for president. Lincoln's showing in the Lincoln-Douglas debates put him in the running. Lincoln emerged as the compromise candidate for the Republicans when neither of the front-runners could gain enough support to win the nomination. Lincoln's victory in the 1860 election would |
| 00:00:23 | spark the Civil War. |