



Teacher Guide: “Night on 10th Street” on Fords.org

Prepared by Kevin Murphy

Webpage: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/lincolns-death/night-on-10th-street/>

Overview of webpage

This page features short descriptions and first-person accounts about the vigil that took place on 10th Street, between Ford’s Theatre and the house where Lincoln lay dying, following President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination.

Structure of page

- The menu just below the main image navigates to [Lincoln’s Death](#), to [Investigating the Assassination](#) and to [Impact on a Nation](#).
- This page has a short introduction /overview, then first-person accounts from people who were there that night.
- The primary section is “Perspectives on the Night,” which provides four firsthand accounts along with guiding questions, including:
 - How does this evidence match—or not—with other evidence? Who gave the testimony?
 - What might the person’s motives be for saying what they did?
 - When did this person give the testimony? Was it soon after the event? Much later? How might that affect what they said?

Primary Source Accounts

1. Julia Adeline Shepherd (April 16, 1865)
2. Gideon Welles (April 15, 1865)—link to full source provided
3. Elizabeth Keckly (1868)—link to full source provided
4. Daniel H. Veader (1920)

Interactive Map of Painting

The page continues to a painting “Lincoln Borne by Loving Hands” by Carl Bersch, based on his sketches from the night of Lincoln’s assassination. It is the only first-hand visual account. This painting has 7 “hot spots” to allow the viewer to learn more about some of the imagery:

5. American flag: “A sign of celebration”
6. Building: “A state of panic”
7. President being carried: “A theatre is no place for a president”
8. Road: “Unpaved roads”
9. Petersen House: “Bird’s-eye view”
10. Person in street: “Bring him here”
11. Torchlights: “The torchlight parade”

Learn More

At the bottom is a LEARN MORE section with links to [Lincoln’s Death](#), [Ford’s Theatre](#) (the virtual tour) and [Teaching the Lincoln Assassination](#) (which includes full lesson plans)

Suggested Activities

1. Analyze the painting *Lincoln Borne by Loving Hands*. Use this Library of Congress [“Teaching with Primary Sources”](#) framework for analyzing images.

Observe: Ask students to identify and note details. Describe what you see? What do you notice? What is the setting?

Reflect: Encourage students to generate and test hypothesis about the source. Why was this image made? What can you learn by examining it?

Question: Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections. What do you wonder about? Who? What? Why? When?

2. Write a newspaper article

Use this page to gather source material for writing a newspaper account of the assassination. Include primary source accounts in your article describing what happened. Are your sources credible? Why or why not. Start with a headline and develop the angle of your story.

3. Create an exhibit

It's your turn to be the curator. Create an exhibit on the story of the Lincoln assassination. Use primary source accounts from witnesses, photographs, images of artifacts and anything else that will help you tell a story with your exhibit. Your exhibit can be a series of drawings, a poster board, a series of Instagram posts, a power point, a play, a song – whatever you'd like to use to tell your story.