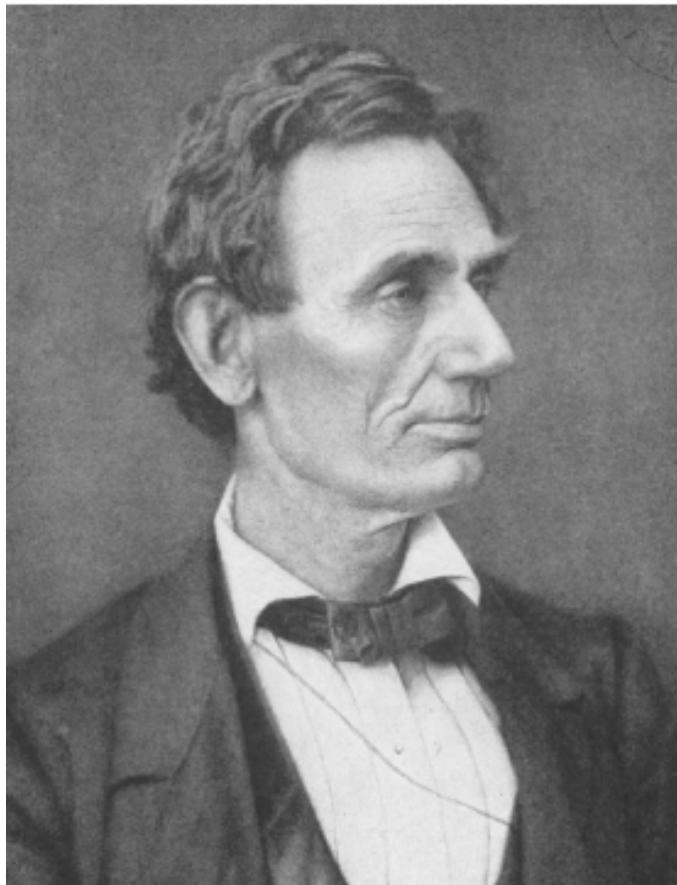


# Investigate Illinois: People

## Background Information

Illinois is known for famous figures like Abraham Lincoln, and many of them have ties to agriculture. In this lesson, students will investigate Illinois agriculture and famous people with agricultural connections. *\*If you like this lesson, a more comprehensive lesson including agricultural businesses, sites to see and other agricultural tidbits is also available from McLean County Ag in the Classroom.*



## Materials provided by McLean County Agriculture in the Classroom:

- Investigate Illinois lesson including Josephine Cochrane biography sheet (PDF) and Answer Key (PDF)
- Investigate Illinois: People PDF (makes 8 two-sided cards)
- Investigate Illinois Reflection Sheet PDF (one per group)
- one Illinois History Ag Mag per student

# Investigate Illinois: People

1. Read the Josephine Cochrane biography together as a class. Ask students how many knew the inventor of the dishwasher was from Illinois, and whether they found the story interesting. Explain that our state is full of fascinating stories like that of Josephine Cochrane's.
2. Divide students into 8 groups. Each group will have the opportunity to choose a unique Illinois person to investigate. Once they have researched their topic, they will develop reports and/or presentations to share with the class.
3. Explain that their card is only starting point to learn about their topic. Students will continue their research in the library and online. (Note: This is a good opportunity to discuss tools for finding credible, accurate sources of information and comparing the information presented from multiple sources. See the Investigate Illinois: People Answer Key for suggested resources.)
4. Distribute copies of the Investigate Illinois Reflection Sheet. Students should complete a reflection sheet as they listen to each presentation. After each presentation, allow students a few more minutes to complete their reflections. Conduct a brief classroom discussion of the presented topic, with students referring to their reflection sheets as needed. (Presentations may take place over the course of several days.)

## Illinois English Language Arts Standards

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4** Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10** Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

## Illinois Social Science Standard

**SS.H.2.4.** Using artifacts and primary sources, investigate how individuals contributed to and the founding and development of Illinois.