

Key

The Death of President Lincoln

In early March 1865, John Wilkes Booth attended President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Outraged by the speech, Booth, a Confederate sympathizer, then heard the news that Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered. Booth attended another speech on April 11 in which Lincoln endorsed voting rights for Black men, convincing Booth that the President and the Union government should fall. Booth and his co-conspirators made a plan to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward.

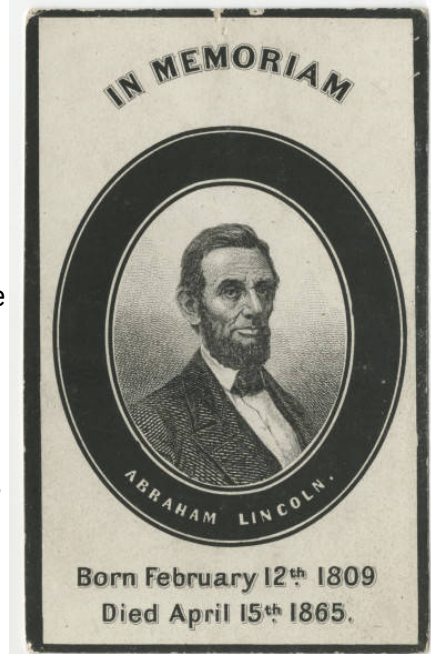
On April 14, 1865, Booth shot President Lincoln while he was attending a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. After firing the shot, Booth leapt from the presidential box down to the stage, breaking his leg. He then escaped through the back alley and fled the city. None of the co-conspirators successfully carried out their assassinations and all retreated into hiding.

Meanwhile, the President was carried across the street to the Petersen House accompanied by a doctor who was in the audience. Upon arrival, the surgeon general concluded that the President could not be saved. Throughout the night several members of the President's Cabinet and some of his closest friends stood vigil by the bedside. First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln and the Lincolns' eldest son Robert stayed in an adjoining room in a state of shock. At 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865, Lincoln was pronounced dead at the age of 56.

Learning of the President's death, the nation celebrating the end of the Civil War went into mourning, or a time of grieving. The President's body laid in state for three days in the Capitol building and was then transported by train to Lincoln's hometown, Springfield, Illinois. On the way, each major city conducted a funeral for him. Millions of Americans watched as his funeral train passed, paying their respects to the martyred President.

While the nation was mourning, the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth ensued. Union soldiers searched for Booth and his accomplice, David Herold, as they headed toward Maryland. They made a stop at the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd, who treated Booth's broken leg, then stayed for a short time in the home of a Confederate agent, Thomas A. Jones. From there the two traveled into Virginia where they found a barn as a hiding place.

On April 26, Union troops surrounded the barn and set it ablaze attempting to flush Booth and Herold out. Herold surrendered to the Union troops, while Booth remained inside and was shot by an Army soldier. Three hours after being removed from the burning barn, Booth succumbed to his injury and died. Four of Booth's co-conspirators were tried and found guilty for their part in the assassination plot. They were executed by hanging on July 7, 1865.



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Directions: Use the reading to choose the best answer.

1) What was the name of Lincoln's assassin?

- A John Wilkes Booth
- B Robert E. Lee
- C David Herold

2) When did Lincoln die?

- A December 6, 1865
- B April 20, 1865
- C April 15, 1865

3) Which of the below was NOT a target for assassination?

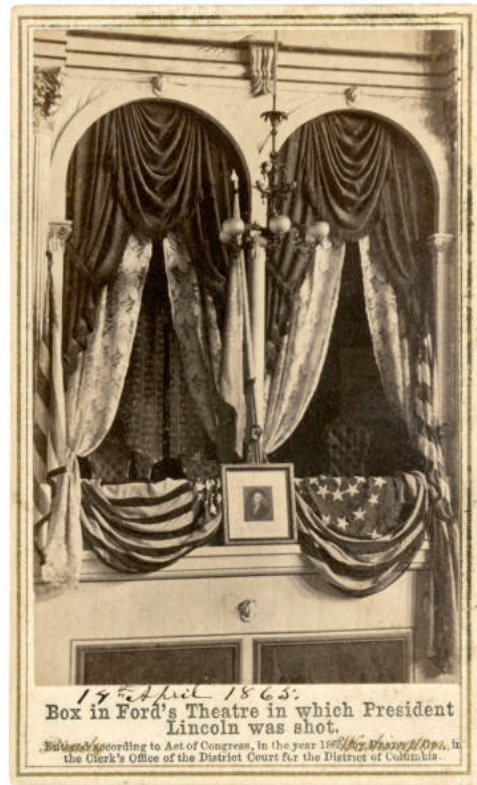
- A David Herold
- B Vice President Andrew Johnson
- C Secretary of State William Seward

4) What was the name of the theatre where Lincoln was shot?

- A Ford's Theatre
- B Petersen Theatre
- C Mudd's Theatre

5) Where did the assassin die?

- A Washington, D.C.
- B Thomas A. Jones' home
- C A barn in Virginia



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