

# How Honest Abe Got His Name | Lesson Plan

Why are honesty and integrity important?

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Students will understand the importance of honesty and integrity through the lens of American folklore, using the story of "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname" to illustrate how these values shape our lives and reputations.

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify what American folklore is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the story of "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname."
- Explain the importance of honesty and integrity as demonstrated in the story.
- Discuss how actions can influence how others perceive us.
- Identify the moral of the story and relate it to personal experiences.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **American Folklore:** Stories passed down through generations in the United States, often blending fact and legend.
- **Honesty:** The quality of being truthful.
- **Integrity:** Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- **Reputation:** The beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone.
- **Moral:** A lesson that can be learned from a story or experience.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2,

**Academic Topics:** Life Lessons, U.S. Presidents, Honesty

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: How Honest Abe Got His Name* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: How Honest Abe Got His Name* (Click [Here](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what American folklore is: stories passed down through generations in the United States, often blending facts with legends. Today, students will learn about a famous American figure, Abraham Lincoln, through a piece of American folklore titled "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname."
2. Explain that Abraham Lincoln was so well-known for being honest that people started telling stories about him to illustrate his honesty. These stories became part of American folklore.
3. Ask students if they have heard any other American folklore stories before, and share some titles if they have (e.g., Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed, etc.).



4. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: American folklore, honesty, integrity, reputation, and moral.
5. Ask students to think about a time when they or someone they know was honest, even when it was difficult. Discuss how it felt and what happened as a result.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Watch the video *Otto's Tales: How Honest Abe Got His Nickname* with the students.
2. Engage students in a discussion about the story, focusing on the following questions:
  - Who are the main characters in the story?
  - What actions did Abraham Lincoln take that showed his honesty and integrity?
  - How did these actions affect his reputation?
  - Why did people start calling him "Honest Abe"?
  - How did stories like this one help build Abraham Lincoln's reputation as an honest man?
3. After the story, discuss the moral of the story:
  - What lessons can we learn from "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname"?
  - Why is it important to have integrity, even when no one is watching?

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname."
2. Hand out the Story Sequence Chart worksheet.
3. Instruct students to look at the pictures on the worksheet and number the scenes in order from first to last.
4. After completing the worksheet, discuss the sequence of events as a class.
5. Ask students to explain why it was important for Abraham Lincoln to be honest and how his actions made a lasting impression on others.
6. Discuss briefly how these stories became part of American folklore and helped shape Lincoln's image as an honest leader.
7. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
  - Correctly sequence the story of "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname."
  - Explain the moral of the story.
  - Discuss how honesty and integrity can build a strong reputation.
8. Close with an encouraging call to action: Highlight the lesson from "How Honest Abe Got His Nickname," emphasizing the importance of honesty and integrity. Discuss how being truthful and doing the right thing can positively affect their lives and the community.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)**

If you don't have time for the complete lesson, you can still reinforce the main ideas. After reading the story, distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and allow students to complete it on their own. Conclude with a brief discussion about the importance of honesty and integrity and how these values shape how others see us.