Fun facts about Abraham Lincoln:
- Born February 12, 1809
- Died April 15, 1865, age 58
- Married Mary Todd
- 4 sons, only 1 lived to adulthood
- 8 years in Illinois Legislature
- Famous debates with Stephan Douglas in 1858 in Senate race
- Aquarius
- His face is on the $5, and the penny
- Age 52 when he took office in 1861
- His Vice Presidents were Hannibal Hamlin and Andrew Johnson
- Six feet four inches tall

Questions from Thesis Development Worksheet:
1. **Topic**: Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation
2. **Who**: Abraham Lincoln
3. **What**: To threaten the Confederacy into ending war, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free all slaves in rebelling states and counties.
4. **Where**: America, D.C., South (rebelling states and counties)
5. **When**: January 1, 1863, first draft was in July 1862
6. **Why did it happen**: To end slavery and convince the South to rejoin the Union, gain military strength as freed slaves could join the Union Army.
7. **Why is it important?**: Psychological boost to abolitionist argument. It changed the legal status of slaves in rebelling areas. It also made the Civil War officially about freeing slaves and not just about restoring the Union as Lincoln stated in his Inaugural Address.
8. **How was this topic connected to Breaking Barriers in History?**: The North and South were unable to compromise on the issue of slavery, which resulted in a military conflict in the Civil War.
9. **What was the impact or historical significance?**: The lasting legacy of Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation made the Civil War officially about freeing slaves and not just restoring the Union, becoming the starting point on the way to racial equality.

**Thesis**: On January 1, 1893, during heightened concerns about Union victory in the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing enslaved people in the Confederate States. While the proclamation did not fully break the barrier of racial equality, it did make the ending of slavery an explicit war goal, inspire Union troops, and laid the foundation for the passage of the 13th amendment.
WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT
Sample: The Montgomery Bus Boycott

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected? Rosa Parks, Citizens in Montgomery, Civil Rights Movement leaders, Montgomery’s government officials

WHAT: What happened? Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, which violated a law enforcing segregation on Montgomery city buses. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of buses and challenged the law as unconstitutional.

WHERE: Where was/were the place(s) it took place? Montgomery, Alabama

WHEN: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it? Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955. The boycott started on December 5 and lasted for 381 days.


WHY: Why is it important? What were the outcomes? The boycott forced change in Montgomery and succeeded in overturning the law requiring racial segregation on public transportation through a Supreme Court battle. This boycott inspired other civil rights movement protests and helped Martin Luther King, Jr. develop nonviolent strategies to fight segregation.

THEME CONNECTION: Breaking Barriers in History

Segregation was a legal barrier that people by race. With the help of Rosa Parks, civil rights leaders challenged that barrier when she refused to give up her bus seat. The Supreme Court battle that followed broke the legal barrier of segregation on public transportation.

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955. The following year-long bus boycott and Supreme Court battle broke the barrier of segregation on public transportation, opening doors for other civil rights movement victories through non-violent protest.
WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: ____________________________________________

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected?

WHAT: What happened? What was the main event?

WHERE: Where was/were the place(s) it took place?

WHEN: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it?

WHY: Why did it happen? What caused it?

WHY: Why is it important? What were outcomes?

THEME CONNECTION: Breaking Barriers in History

• What was the barrier? ________________________________________________

• How did things change? (Was the barrier broken? Did the event contribute to a larger movement? Succeed or fail?)

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

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