THE ASSASSINATION OF Abraham Lincoln
Objectives:

The following presentation is divided into (3) sections with separate objectives:

1. Identify the conspiracy and conspirators in the plot involving Abraham Lincoln.
2. Describe what happened on the fateful evening of April 14, 1865.
3. Explain the events that occurred after the death of the President.

If you would like to go to a specific objective, click on the appropriate button.
John Wilkes Booth

- Born on May 10, 1838 in Maryland; the 9th of 10 children.
- He was the lead in some of William Shakespeare's most famous works.
- He was a racist and Southern sympathizer during the Civil War.
- He hated Abraham Lincoln who represented everything Booth was against.
- Booth blamed Lincoln for all the South's ills.
- BOOTH WANTED REVENGE!!!!
…other interesting facts about Booth

- Started his acting career in 1855 and by 1860 was making $20,000 a year.…
- many called him "the handsomest man in America" and he had an easy charm about him that attracted women.…
- In 1859 Booth was an eyewitness to the execution of John Brown and stood near the scaffold with other armed men to guard against any attempt to rescue John Brown before the hanging.…
- On November 9, 1863, President Lincoln viewed Booth in the role of Raphael in *The Marble Heart* in Ford’s Theatre.
LEFT Booth (middle) with his brothers in *Julius Caesar*; RIGHT Booth in his teen years
The Conspirators....

George Atzerodt
Samuel Arnold
David Herold
John Suratt
Michael O'Laughlen
Lewis Powell (Paine or Payne)
Booth’s Original Plan

• In late summer of 1864 Booth began developing plans to kidnap Lincoln, take him to Richmond (the Confederate capital), and hold him in return for Confederate prisoners of war.
What happened?

- Booth began using Mary Surratt's boardinghouse (pictured left) to meet with his co-conspirators.
- On March 17, 1865, the group planned to capture Lincoln who was scheduled to attend a play at a hospital located on the outskirts of Washington.
- However, the President changed plans and remained in the capital. Thus, Booth's plot to kidnap Lincoln failed.
A Big Change of Plans…

• On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. (War is over)

• Two days later Lincoln spoke from the White House to a crowd gathered outside. Booth was present as Lincoln suggested in his speech that voting rights be granted to certain blacks.

• Infuriated, Booth's plans now turned in the direction of assassination.
Booth over the edge….

- Lincoln suggested conferring voting rights for some blacks; "on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers."
- Booth was enraged! He said, "Now, by God! I'll put him through. That is the last speech he will ever make."
The Opportunity....

- On April 14, Booth stopped at Ford's Theatre to pick up his mail.
- While there he learned of President Lincoln's plans to attend the evening performance of *Our American Cousin*.
One last meeting....

- Booth held one final meeting with his co-conspirators.
- He said he would kill Lincoln at the theatre (he had since learned that Grant had left town).
- Booth gave the others their orders.
- Booth also arranged to have a fast horse waiting for him.
Andrew Johnson

- George Atzerodt was to kill Vice-President Andrew Johnson at the Kirkwood House where Johnson resided.

Johnson was not home when Atzerodt came calling.
William Seward

- Lewis Powell was assigned to kill Secretary of State William Seward.
- David Herold would accompany Powell.

Powell wildly attempted to stab Seward, but struck no fatal blows!!
What was the overall goal?

- All attacks were to take place simultaneously at approximately 10:15 P.M. that night.
- Booth hoped the resulting chaos and weakness in the government would lead to a comeback for the South.
Ford's Theatre

- between E and F streets in Washington, D.C.
- Booth performed there twice – last time March 18, 1865 – and was familiar with the layout.
Lincoln’s Evening

• President Lincoln and his wife arrived late at 8:30 with Maj. Henry Rathbone and his girlfriend Clara Harris.

• The play stopped and Hail to the Chief was sung as Lincoln made his way to the state box.

• Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln’s regular bodyguard, was not available, so a new guard was assigned and was posted outside the door.
Lincoln’s Protection....

• John Parker, a Washington police officer who had been assigned as Lincoln's bodyguard for the evening, met the President just as he was entering the box.

• Parker, who did not have a very good record as a policeman, took his seat outside the box.

• However, he found that he could not see the stage, so he left his post to find better seating.

• Unbelievably, Parker then left the theater at intermission with Lincoln's footman and coachman. The three went to a saloon next to the theater for a drink.
Booth arrives....

• Booth arrived at Ford's Theatre in the vicinity of 9:30.
• Booth went to the tavern next to the theatre and requested a bottle of whiskey and some water.
• Another customer said to Booth, "You'll never be the actor your father was."
• Booth replied, "When I leave the stage, I will be the most famous man in America."
The moment of truth....

- Booth entered Ford's lobby at about 10:07 P.M.
- Booth could see the white door he needed to enter to get to Lincoln's State Box.

- Charles Forbes, the President's footman, was seated next to the door and Booth apparently handed him a card.

- Quietly, Booth then opened the door and entered the dark area in back of the box.

- He propped the door shut with the wooden leg of a music stand which he had placed there on one of his earlier visits during the day
Lincoln Shot....

- Booth put his derringer behind Lincoln's head near the left ear and pulled the trigger.
Major Rathbone

- Rathbone began wrestling with the assassin, and Booth pulled out his knife and stabbed Rathbone in the left arm.
"Sic Semper Tyrannis"

- Booth jumped 11 feet to the stage below.
- When he hit the floor he snapped the fibula bone in his left leg just above the ankle.
- Many in the theatre thought he yelled "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Latin for "As Always to Tyrants"
- Booth flashed his knife at the audience, and he made his way across the stage in front of more than 1,000 people.
- Everything happened so fast no one had time to stop him.
Booth flees on horse....

- Booth went out the back door, climbed on his horse, and escaped from the city using the Navy Yard Bridge.

- Booth met up with Herod and they headed for Lloyd's tavern that was leased from Mary Suratt in Surrattsville.
Ford’s Theatre
Lincoln shot 10:15 p.m. April 14, 1865

Surratt Tavern
Picked up weapons Midnight April 14, 1865

Home of Dr. Mudd
Leg set April 15, 1865

Home of Samuel Cox
Help sought April 16, 1865

Stayed in woods April 16-21, 1865

Lucas’s Farm
Slept in cabin April 23, 1865

Garrett’s Farm
Arrived April 24, 1865
Killed April 26, 1865
Dr. Mudd

• About 4:00 A.M. Booth and Herold arrived at Dr. Mudd's home where Mudd set and splinted Booth's broken leg.
Back in Washington....

- After he examined Lincoln's head wound, army surgeon Charles A. Leale warned that the president would not survive a carriage ride to the White House.

- Lincoln was carried across Tenth Street to the home of William Petersen, a German merchant-tailor.

The Peterson House
Lincoln dies....

- Dr. Robert King Stone, the Lincoln's family doctor, arrived around 11:00 P.M., but there was little that anyone could do.
- The many doctors present knew that the president would not recover.
- Lincoln never again regained consciousness.
- He died at 7:22 A.M. on April 15, 1865.
Wanted Men!!!

- The morning of Lincoln's death, over two thousand soldiers rode out of Washington, D.C., in pursuit of the assassin.

- Eleven days later, April 26, 1865, a group of soldiers and detectives tracked Booth down on Garrett farm near Port Royal, Virginia.

- Orders where to bring them in ALIVE!!
Booth killed....

- The lieutenant in charge at Garrett farm decided to ignite the barn that Booth was hold up in, hoping to force him out.
- As the barn went up in flames, Booth stepped towards the door.
- Sergeant Boston Corbett then shot at Booth, hitting him in the back of the head. Booth died just over two hours later.
Trial of Conspirators....

- The government charged 8 people with conspiracy.
- On May 1, 1865, President Andrew Johnson ordered the formation of a military commission to try the accused persons.
- The actual trial began on May 10th and lasted until June 30th.
Lewis Paine

- Paine was charged with conspiracy and the attempted assassination of Secretary of State William Seward.
- Paine entered Seward's home the night of Lincoln's assassination.
- He knifed and pistol-whipped 5 people in the house.
- Luckily, all survived his brutality.
- Paine was found guilty by the court and was hanged on July 7, 1865.
David Herold

- Herold was charged with conspiracy, guiding Paine to Seward's home, and assisting Booth during his 12 days on the run after the assassination.
- When Booth and Herold were surrounded in a barn at Garrett's farm in Virginia, Herold gave up.
- He was found guilty and hanged on July 7, 1865.
George Atzerodt

- Atzerodt was charged with conspiring with Booth; his assignment was to kill Vice-President Andrew Johnson.
- Atzerodt rented a room in the Kirkwood House, the Vice-President's hotel, and directed a series of "suspicious" questions to the hotel's bartender.
- He made no attempt to kill Johnson.
- Nevertheless, he was found guilty and hanged on July 7, 1865.
Mary Suratt

• Mary Surratt, boardinghouse owner, was charged with conspiring with Booth, "keeping the nest that hatched the egg," and running errands for Booth that facilitated his escape.

• It was alleged that Booth used her boardinghouse to meet with his coconspirators.

• Mrs. Surratt was found guilty and was hanged on July 7, 1865.
Before sentence carried out

After the sentence.......
Dr. Samuel Mudd

- Dr. Samuel Mudd was charged with conspiring with Booth and with aiding the semi-crippled assassin during his escape by sheltering him and setting his broken left leg.
- Mudd was found guilty and sentenced to life.
- However, he received a pardon from President Andrew Johnson in February of 1869.
Sam Arnold

- Arnold was charged with being part of Booth's earlier plot to kidnap President Lincoln.
- He was found guilty and sentenced to life.
- Like Dr. Mudd, he was pardoned by Andrew Johnson early in 1869. He lived until 1906.
Michael O'Laughlen

- Like Arnold, O'Laughlen was charged with conspiracy to kidnap the president.
- He was found guilty and sentenced to life.
- He died of yellow fever in prison at Ft. Jefferson on September 23, 1867.
Edman "Ned" Spangler

- Spangler was charged with helping Booth escape from Ford's Theatre immediately after the assassination.
- Spangler was found guilty and sentenced to 6 years.
- He was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.
Lincoln’s Funeral Procession

Lincoln lying in state in the White House
The Funeral Procession

• Abraham Lincoln's funeral train left Washington on April 21, 1865.
• It would essentially retrace the 1,654 mile route Mr. Lincoln had traveled as President-elect in 1861.
Lincoln's body was carried by train in a grand funeral procession through several states on its way back to Illinois.

He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, where a 177-foot-tall granite tomb surmounted with several bronze statues of Lincoln.

The following slide is a map of the route.
Map showing route taken by the GREAT FUNERAL TRAIN conveying the remains of ABRAHAM LINCOLN from Washington D.C. to Springfield ILLS. April 21 to May 3, 1865. Prepared by F.B. Snow, Historic Lincoln car.
The End