**Challenges of Abraham Lincoln**

 **By: William G.**

Think of a world with slavery. The thought of people owning other people and treating them like wild animals, just because of their color is frightening. Thanks to Abraham Lincoln, we do not need to have that terrible thought. Abraham Lincoln was an extremely successful person, but on his road to success he faced many big challenges. Some of the challenges he faced were growing up in a farming family where he couldn't get much of a formal education, facing depression throughout his life, and struggling to win political elections in the south.

 To begin with, Abraham Lincoln was challenged by growing up in a farming family were he couldn't get much of a formal education. This challenged him because he was only able to get one year of schooling so he had to teach himself all the things the teachers couldn't. One other way this challenged him was most of the time when Lincoln wanted to educate himself he had to work on the farm with his dad so his family could make money. The final reason Lincoln was challenged by his farming family was because when he took time off the farm to educate himself he was thought to be lazy because he was doing mental work instead of physical work, and he didn't like to be thought of that way. That is why living in a farming family were you can't get much of a formal education challenged Abraham Lincoln.

An additional challenge Lincoln faced, was he suffered from depression all his life. He faced this because he lived through the deaths of many loved ones. For example, at the age of three Lincoln lost his brother Thomas when he was still in infancy. His mother Nancy died when Lincoln was nine at age thirty- four because of milk sickness. When Lincoln was nineteen years old, his sister Sarah died at twenty-one years old during child birth and her baby was stillborn. Lincoln was distraught. In his later life when he was forty he lost his dad at the age of seventy-one. After that he had four children Edward, Willie, Tad, and Robert and experienced two of there deaths.When Lincoln was forty-one years old his son Edward died at the age of four. The Last death of a loved one he experienced was his son Willie. Abraham was fifty-three years old when his eleven year old son Willie died. That’s why suffering from depression all throughout Lincolns life challenged him, because he could never recover from the loved ones he lost.

Lastly, Lincoln faced the challenge of struggling to win political elections in the south. This happened because Lincoln was against slavery and many people in the south liked it. Many people in the south liked it because in the south the weather was great weather for growing cash crops such as tobacco, cotton, potatoes, peanuts and many more different crops. The people took advantage of their surroundings and made plantations for many of these crops, though they did not like paying people to work in there plantations. That’s were the slaves came in, instead of paying people to do all the work in their plantations they decided to buy slaves and have them do all the work for them for free. The slaves became very important to the Southern people because they were making money off the crops the slaves grew. Therefore when Lincoln ran for president and was against slavery many people in the south disliked him and his decisions strongly. This had an out come of Virginia being the only Southern state out of twelve to elect Lincoln as president, which was a big challenge for Lincoln. That is why struggling to win political elections in the south was a big challenge for Lincoln.

In conclusion, Abraham Lincoln faced many challenges in his lifetime, such as growing up in a farming family where he could not get much of a formal education, facing depression all throughout his life, and struggling to win political elections in the south. Even though Lincoln faced all of these challenges he was still able to achieve one of the greatest accomplishment in the history of our country, making slavery illegal in all of the US. That shows you that you can not let the challenges you have in life bring you down, you need to use grit and determination to push through them.