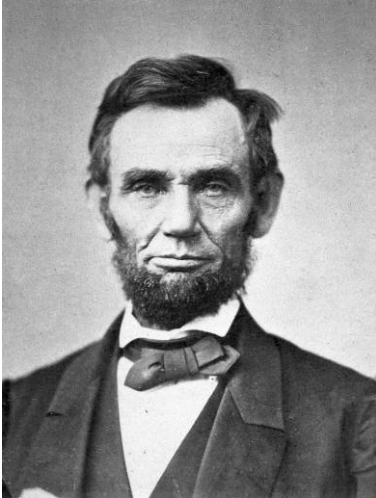


## Abraham Lincoln & Benito Juárez



**Abraham Lincoln** was born on February 12, 1809 in Kentucky. The son of a frontier farmer; Lincoln was a lawyer, Illinois state legislator, and a member of the United States House of Representatives before becoming the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

As president, Lincoln successfully led the United States through its greatest crisis, the Civil War. His changing views on slavery led to the Emancipation Proclamation, which transformed the war into a moral crusade for black freedom. Lincoln's rhetorical gifts rallied public support in a way no other president had done before. His most famous speech, the Gettysburg Address, continues to inspire people throughout the world.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth, a well-known actor and Confederate sympathizer.



**Benito Juárez** was born March 21, 1806, fifteen years before Mexico's independence from Spain. This Zapotec from Oaxaca became the first full-blooded indigenous national to serve as president of Mexico from 1858-72. As a primary leader in the Liberal Movement, he battled Mexican Conservatives in the War of Reform (1858-61) and French forces from 1861-67. His actions helped to expand, strengthen, and secure a sovereign federal government and pave the way for modern Mexico.

Benito Juárez died of a heart attack in 1872 during his fifth term in office. The period of his leadership is known as *La Reforma* (the reform), and his birthday is celebrated as an annual national holiday.