

Adventures
along the

Lincoln Highway



Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book

Getting There Is Half the Fun!

How to use this Activity Book:

The games in this book are best if played as you ride in a car as you travel on the Lincoln Highway in Iowa.

1. Before you begin playing, scan the activity book so you will know what to look for!
2. Most games can be played with a pencil or pen.
3. Games are about Abraham Lincoln, the Lincoln Highway, road signs, watersheds, prairies, Iowa, and recreation.
4. To double-check your answers, please see the Answer Key on Page 19.
5. You have the opportunity to earn a Lincoln Highway Junior Explorer prize. As you stop in at the businesses listed on Pages 15-18, be sure to stamp a box on the back cover. Once you have at least eight of the fifteen stamps, send the completed page to the address listed below to receive your Junior Explorer prize! Be sure to include your complete mailing address.
6. Families will enjoy stopping at the many municipal waterparks along the route. There are many opportunities for camping and other recreation as well. Have an adult consult the Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway's Recreation and Camping Guide for more information.
7. Participation in this program does not include discounts with any of the businesses unless otherwise specified.

The Lincoln Highway Activity Book for Junior Explorers is sponsored by:

**Prairie Rivers of Iowa
Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway™
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association**

Special thanks to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa's Watersheds & Waterways Program for their contributions to this publication.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway
2335 230th St Suite 101
Ames, IA 50014



Welcome to the Lincoln Highway!

Do you know the Lincoln Highway starts in Times Square in New York City and travels across the United States to San Francisco, California? It was the first improved road to go across the nation.



The Lincoln Highway changed the way people lived and traveled. People had been using horses and stagecoaches for long distance travel. Then trains came, crossing the nation. You could travel great distances on a train, but could only go where tracks went, and there were schedules to follow, too.

In 1913, Carl Fisher, the head of the Presto-Light (headlight) company, and Henry Joy, the President of the Packard (car) Company, dreamed of a highway that would go clear across the nation, connecting communities. Mr. Joy helped form the Lincoln Highway Association, serving as its first President.

They worked hard to connect existing roads and build new ones when needed so a person could drive from New York City all the way to San Francisco. People were able to travel the Lincoln Highway and explore places they had only read about. How exciting! Some say this road started the family vacation.

Finding Your Way

Have you ever been lost while traveling? The Lincoln Highway was formed in 1913 and in those early days there were no road signs and very few maps. Travelers on the Lincoln Highway followed the Big “L” that was painted on barns, poles, fence posts, rocks, and anything else the Lincoln Highway Association could find. The “L” was on a field of white with a red and blue box border.

By 1925, there were many roads with signs, each with their own identifying colors and symbols. It became confusing for travelers. A numbered system was developed and the Lincoln Highway was given the number 30.



Have you seen signs like these?

The Lincoln Highway and Highway 30 were the same, but new bypasses have been built. The new roads go around the communities that the Lincoln Highway once connected. In some places, they are no longer the same road.

In 2006, the Lincoln Highway was designated as a “Heritage Byway,” meaning it has historical and cultural qualities. It is part of the Iowa Byways program with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The Lincoln Highway Association—Iowa Chapter

Download an Iowa membership form at:

www.iowalincolnhighway.org

Iowa Only Membership:
\$10

National Membership:
Individual: \$45
Family: \$60

National Membership forms:
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org



Help preserve, interpret, improve, and promote this historic road by becoming a member!

Building a road across the United States was a big project. The men and women who made the Lincoln Highway wanted permanent signs to help mark the route. In 1928, Boy Scouts across America dug holes for more than 3,000 concrete markers like the one below. Since they were installed, the Lincoln Highway has been improved or widened in places, causing the loss of many of the markers. Snow plows sometimes hit them, too.



There are over 40 concrete markers in Iowa. See if you can find 10 of them as you travel the Lincoln Highway. Mark an X over a penny when you find one and write down the town you are in.



List the towns where you find concrete Lincoln Highway markers:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Why the Lincoln Highway?

When Carl Fisher thought about a name for the Highway, he first wanted to call it “The Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway.” That did not sound very exciting, and Henry Joy suggested it be named for President Abraham Lincoln as a way to honor the 16th President of the United States. Fisher agreed to the name. President Lincoln’s picture is on the penny and the \$5 bill. His picture is also on the original concrete markers installed by the Boy Scouts of America.

We usually see Abraham Lincoln with a tall black, “stove-top” hat and a black beard. Draw Abe’s hat and beard on him below!



Word Search

N I B A C N N S T R E A M B T E G Q S O
D D N U Y Z J I N B E A M E W K Z K M B
C B I C Y C L E F P Z W N S M A L P A D
C J U D V S T G K T K T W H N L E X D R
A C C N I T E C C K A I W U Y G A F A L
M D H V P D H J L Z M A B T G N Y S H R
P M O U N T C R E S C E N T P I Y G A C
V C H D X L R Q U I Y B U B M R K M Y W
D L A W E Y E E D Z O W H D O P U S D D
X L J N X S R Q Y A T W N K C S L T E W
W I L C O C O K T G J A A O A I E K N T
R H B O H E L T X C L Y Q R L Z N K C X
Y P V T S K P R O S R T H C I P Q C I S
O U C N I A X K I B A G Y B M V F G I H
W I F N F L E N J B E Y Y B B J E I L P
X K S X H E O R O V R N E I G O M R X I
A C H F A S Q W K A O Y D Y C F V D E U
E I U H L O G R I M E S F A R M Q Z I K
V W E I Y O Z E K O M S W O L L E Y P S
J Q W Y C G H U N T K N M Z I N W W F W

Word List

ADA HAYDEN
BICYCLE
BOAT
CABIN
CAMP
CANOE
DESOTO BEND

EXPLORE
FISH
GOOSE LAKE
GRIMES FARM
HIKE
HUNT
IOWA RIVER

MOUNT CRESCENT
PICNIC
SKI
SPRING LAKE
STREAM
SWIM
TENT

WIKIUP HILL
WILSON ISLAND
YELLOW SMOKE

A Note to Parents:

In addition to this Junior Explorer Activity Book, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway™ also offers a Lincoln Highway Informational Guide and The Lincoln Highway Recreational and Camping Guide.

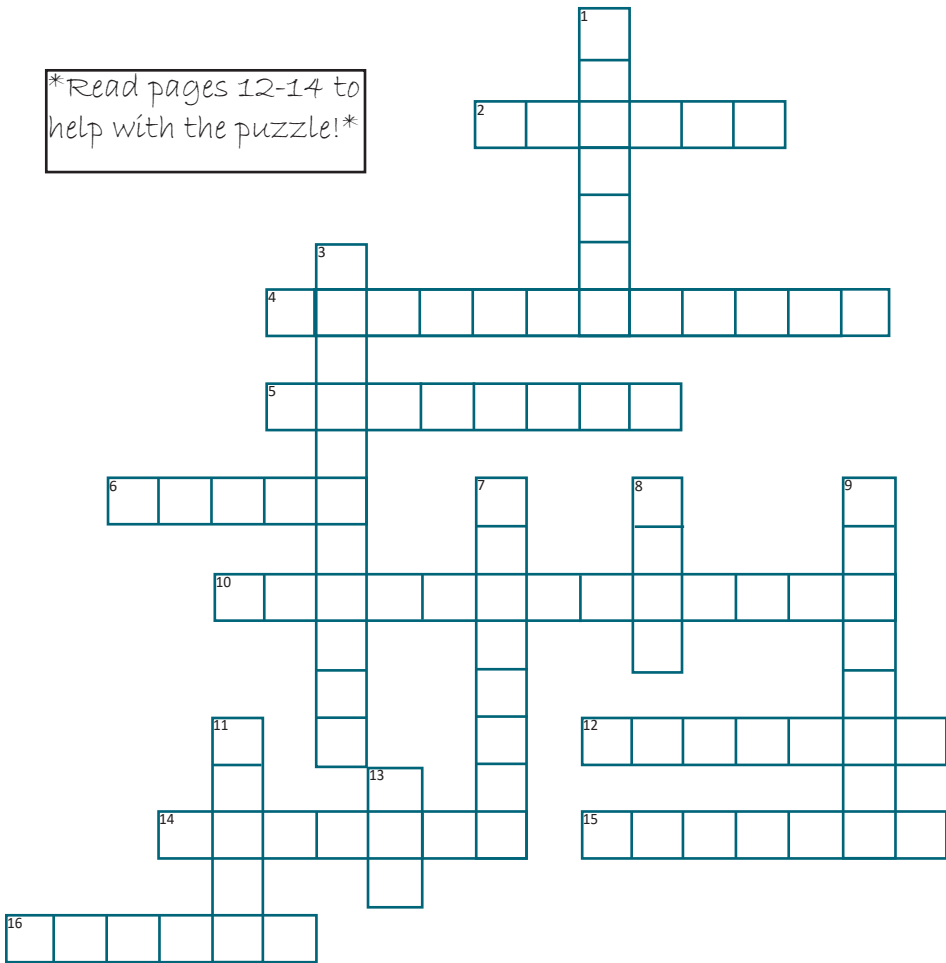
For more information or to place an order please visit our website, www.prrcd.org, and look for our Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway page under “Programs.”

The LHHB is committed to preservation and restoration of our archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic resources. Our Corridor Management Plan is a 15-20 year plan of projects for Iowa’s portion of the Lincoln Highway. It may be viewed on either our website or the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Scenic Byway webpage.

Check out our Facebook page ([@LincolnHighway](https://www.facebook.com/LincolnHighway)) and **LIKE** us!



Read pages 12-14 to help with the puzzle!



ACROSS

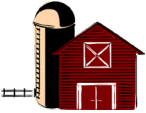
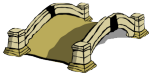

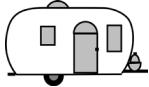











2. President _____ Eisenhower
4. The Lincoln Highway ends in _____ in California.
5. A founding member of the Lincoln Highway and its first President.
6. Early travelers could spend the night in a tourist _____.
10. Town where the Lincoln Highway ends in western Iowa as it crosses the Missouri River and on into Omaha, NE.
12. Much of the Lincoln Highway in Iowa is _____ 30.
14. Last name of the president for whom the Highway is named.
15. Iowa was once 85% covered by _____.
16. The Lincoln Highway was the idea of Carl _____.

DOWN

1. Town on the Mississippi where the Lincoln Highway begins in Iowa.
3. The Lincoln Highway begins in _____ in New York.
7. The Lincoln Highway travels through _____ counties in Iowa.
8. Early cars would often overheat after driving up a _____.
9. _____ Nation, the only federally recognized Indian tribe in Iowa, lives directly along the Lincoln Highway.
11. Official colors of the Lincoln Highway are red, _____, and blue.
13. Original concrete Lincoln Highway markers were installed by _____ Scouts of America.

Lincoln Highway BINGO

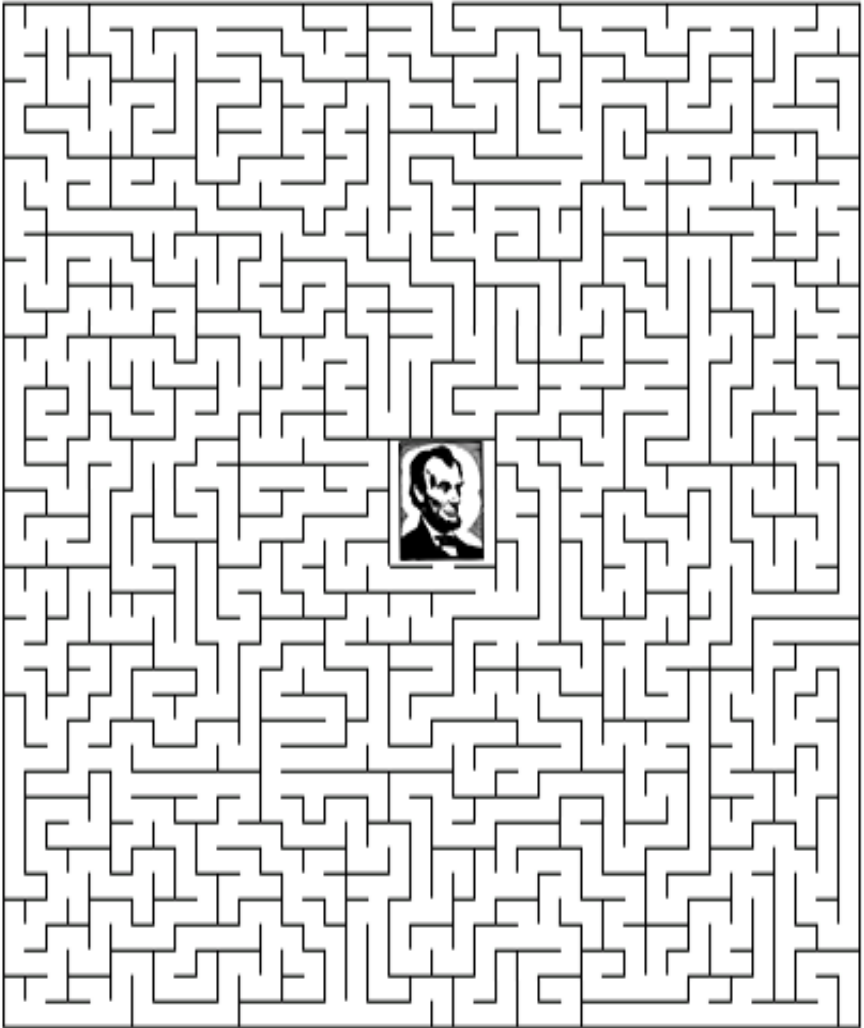
It's fun to keep a "lookout" for special Lincoln Highway things. When you spot one of the items listed on the "card" below, Mark the box with a big "X." See if you can find all of them for a "blackout." Abraham Lincoln is a middle **FREE** space.

 CAR	 BARN	 BRIDGE	 GOLF COURSE	 CAMPER
 APPLE ORCHARD	 BYWAY SIGN	 BUS	 MOTEL	 RIVER
 DOG	 TOURIST CABIN	 FREE SPACE!	 CEMETERY	 GAS STATION
 COLLEGE	 MOTORCYCLE	 CHURCH	 UNDERPASS	 TRAIN
 SEMI TRUCK	 RESTAURANT	 DEER	 TRUCK	 RAILROAD TRACKS

Maze

Find the route to Abe!

Start Here!



Iowa's Early Landscape

A billion years ago, the Earth was just a youngster and a hot, violent place. Meteorites were slamming into it and volcanoes erupting, pushing up material from inside the planet. When things cooled down, a crust formed on Earth's surface. For eons, wind, water, and glaciers split the bedrock into large boulders. Over time, the boulders were weathered into smaller pieces that eventually became the main components of topsoil—sand, silt, and clay.

Soil formation was also influenced by glaciers (large ice formations) as they plowed across Iowa several time thousands of years ago. As they advanced and retreated, they pushed sand, clay, gravel, and boulders into the ground. These deposits are known as glacial drift. Some parts of Iowa have no drift, while in west central Iowa it is over 600 feet thick.

New streams formed as large amounts of water and sediment flowed from the melting glaciers. As temperatures shifted back and forth from melting to freezing, fierce winds blew the fine glacial debris. One deposit of windblown, yellowish silt is called loess (pronounced luss). In western Iowa, from Dunlap to Council Bluffs, you will travel near the Loess Hills. Some of the loess deposit here are over 200 feet high. China is the only place with thicker deposits.

This windblown loess soil is a challenge for both building and road construction.

Iowa's Prairie

Iowa was once 85% prairie land. Prairie plants can have roots that reach as far down as 25 feet or more. The prairie grass could grow taller than a person. When early settlers ran plows through virgin prairie grass, they discovered just how deep and dense the root system could be. A regular plow and mule could not cut the sod. It took a special breaking plow and a team of oxen. A good team and a long day of back-breaking labor could plow up one or two acres. Within one generation, early farmers plowed 99% of Iowa prairie into cropland. Do you see the rows of corn and soybeans out your car window? That all used to be prairie!

The Department of Transportation has a program to use prairie plants in the roadside ditches. It helps prevent erosion, has less maintenance than mowed grass ditches, and provides habitat for wildlife. Do you see wildflowers in the ditches?

Central Iowa is known as the “prairie pothole” region due to its wetlands and bogs. The Iowa soil was very wet due to spring rains and melting of winter snows. Road travel in Iowa was completely impossible in the spring. The early traveler called this muddy mess Iowa’s “gumbo.”

To dry fields out so they could plant crops, clay tiles were used under the soil to drain it and control the flow of water. Concrete culverts were built under the road to allow water to flow underneath, yet keep the roadbed dry.

Today, Iowa is realizing the benefits of the prairie system cycle (growing, dying, decaying, and re-growing) and how it makes soil healthy. Iowa is also recognizing that wetlands are good for wildlife habitat, soils, and act as natural filter to help purify water. We are restoring wetlands and prairies. See if you can find some as you travel the Lincoln Highway!

Early Travel

In 1914, the Lincoln Highway Association’s Hints to Transcontinental Tourists Traveling the Lincoln Highway stated that the entire expense for a car and four passengers from Times Square to San Francisco, a distance of 3,400 miles, should not exceed \$240.00, excluding tire and repair expenses. “The time required for the trip, with easy driving, will be nineteen days, driving approximately ten hours per day. This will make an average of approximately eighteen miles per hour, during the driving time.” How many hours do you spend traveling in a day?

Travelers often pitched a tent and set up camp alongside the road in any open area. Local businessmen or cities opened tourist camps, offering cabins with showers, beds, bathrooms, and areas for camping. Eventually motels, car repair shops, restaurants, and gas stations sprang up along the route. Places like the Reed-Niland Corner in Colo were a one-stop for food, gas, and lodging. It was open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and the Jefferson and Greyhound bus lines stopped there.

1919 Army Convoy

Another President of the United States has ties to the Lincoln Highway! In 1919, then Lieutenant Colonel Dwight Eisenhower led an Army convoy of 79 vehicles, 260 enlisted men, and 35 officers across the country on the “new” Lincoln Highway. The trip from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco took two months. Eisenhower realized the need for a national system of roads. Later, as the 34th President, he helped develop the interstate highway systems. Interstates usually have four or more lanes.



Iowa's Route

From Illinois, the Lincoln Highway crosses the Mississippi River into Iowa at Clinton. It was once a very busy river town, with many sawmills turning trees from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin into lumber. Many steamboats stopped here. The road travels west through 13 counties and crosses the Missouri River at Council Bluffs. This town was named for the “councils,” or meetings, between explorers Lewis and Clark and Indian tribe leaders. They met on a certain bluff in the area, naming it “Council Bluffs.”

As European settlers first entered and settled in Iowa, so did the Meskwaki Nation. They had been living in northeastern United States and had been displaced over time by settlers and other tribes. The Meskwaki chose to live near the Iowa River and purchased 80 acres of land from the State of Iowa. They are the only federally recognized Indian Nation in Iowa. Today, Meskwaki Nation has a school, police force, casino, hotel, travel plaza, and many more acres of land in Tama and Palo Alto counties. They hold an annual Pow Wow every August.

Early travelers in Iowa not only had the “gumbo” as a challenge, but often cars would overheat after driving up a hill. Near Jefferson, such a location was known as “Danger Hill.” Cars would often need to go up the hill backwards. Gravity would drain the gas from the engine. Today's cars have fuel pumps and we can go forward up hills!

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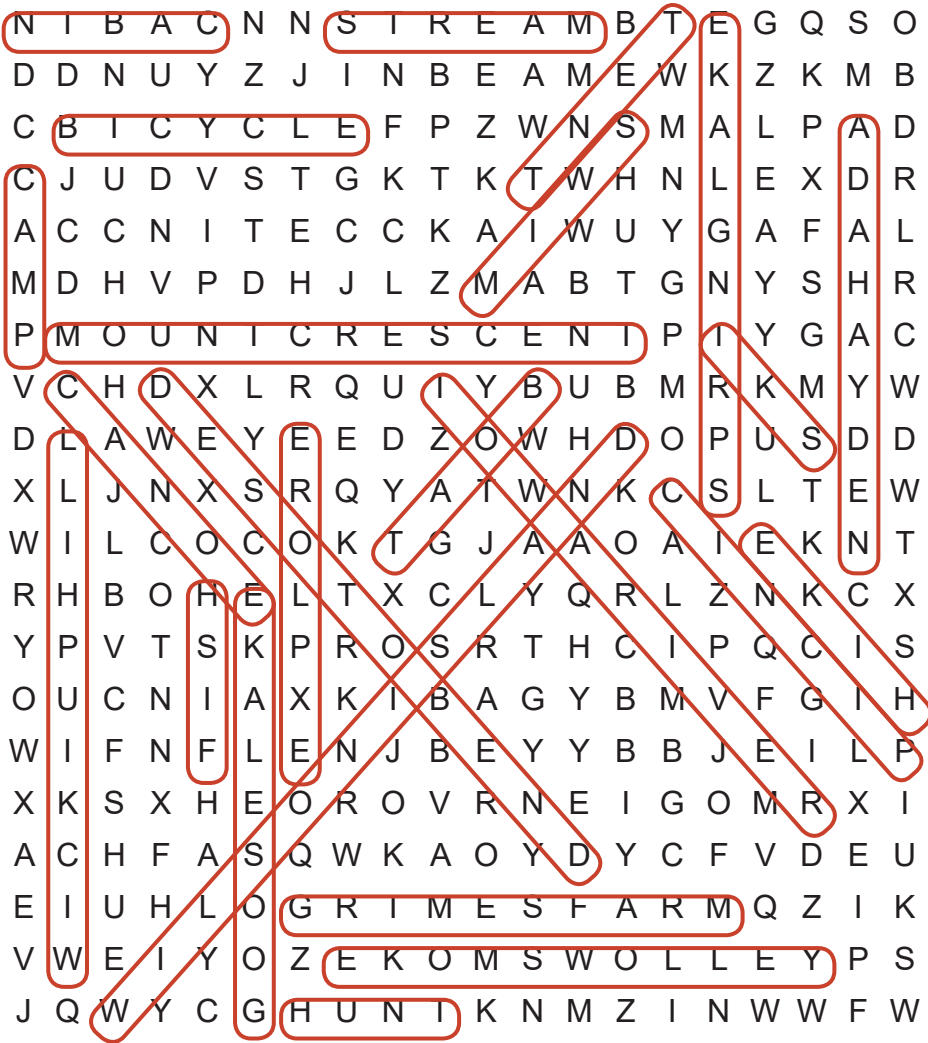
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Prior to becoming President, Lincoln was given 2 plots of land in Iowa for his services as a lawyer to the U.S. Government. In 1852, a 40-acre tract 5 miles northwest of Tama and another tract 7 miles north and 2 miles east of Denison were given to Lincoln. He never lived here or visited the land.

A
D
V
E
R
T
I
S
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M
E
N
T
S

Answer Keys

Word Search: Page 7



Crossword Puzzle: Page 14

- Down:
- 1. Clinton
 - 3. Times Square
 - 7. Thirteen
 - 8. Hill
 - 9. Meskwaki
 - 11. White
 - 13. Boy
- Across:
- 2. Dwight
 - 4. San Francisco
 - 5. Henry Joy
 - 6. Camps
 - 10. Council Bluffs
 - 12. Highway
 - 14. Lincoln
 - 15. Prairie
 - 16. Fisher

Become a Lincoln Highway Junior Explorer



As you travel the Lincoln Highway, stop into the locations advertised on pg. 15-18. Before you visit, check their hours and days of operation. There will be a stamper at the counter for you to use in this book. Stamp a square. After you have collected at least eight of the fifteen possible stamps, mail in this page or a copy of it. We will send you the **Lincoln Highway Junior Explorer prize** that you have earned. Thanks for learning about the Lincoln Highway! Keep exploring!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Comments: _____
