Abraham Lincoln and his effect on slavery:

The Emancipation Proclamation

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When we heard the theme, we first had the idea of slavery; we thought about it and came up with Abraham Lincoln’s effect on slavery. We came up with the topic of slavery because the idea of how African-Americans were treated back then and the outcome was horrific and once it was declared illegal, how other states acted upon it; we thought it would be a good idea for a turning point. The Emancipation Proclamation was the first link that popped up and we agreed that it would become out NHD topic. We stuck with this topic because it was the spark that ignited the ending of slavery, which changed the way African-Americans were treated.

At first we did some basic internet research. Then we went to the public library and collected books on Lincoln, the Civil War, and the Emancipation Proclamation, talking notes as we went. At first we looked for the basics: Who was Lincoln? What was the Emancipation Proclamation? What was the Civil War about? As we looked for the answers, we wrote notes and analyzed the information. We also had more detailed questions, like asking what the text hadn’t mentioned. We also went to the UF Library where we were able to find primary and secondary sources. There was a source with a compile of letters Lincoln sent. We also were able to see the actual Emancipation Proclamation written in German, which was very fragile.

For our NHD project, we chose to do a website because we could have more time to work on it. For a documentary, you could only work on it at school, whereas we could work on a website at home. There are also plenty of videos about Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation; however, the variety of pictures is limited. Documentaries require many pictures, so it was be hard to find different types to use. Finally, on a website, you don’t have to narrate. This is important to us because neither of us are very eloquent speakers.

This turning point was important because it freed millions of people from slavery and started African-American’s journey to equality. It also helped the Union win the Civil War; the Emancipation Proclamation also led to the 13th Amendment which officially freed all slaves. This left a mark on America because we don’t have slavery anymore. There was a time of segregation when races weren’t treated equally. However, today everyone has equal rights and is treated similar. This all happened because the Emancipation Proclamation was published.