

Program topics for Adults and Young Adults:

International dimensions of the Abolition movement--How was the movement in the U.S. affected by, or how did it influence freedom movements in other slaveholding areas, such as Latin America and the Caribbean?

American poets and the Civil War

Compare Presidential leadership in times of crisis, with emphasis on Lincoln.

How was Lincoln perceived in the rest of the world during his Presidency? What was European reaction to the Civil War?

Who were major figures in the Abolition movement? What did they want from Lincoln?

What was the reaction in your area to Lincoln's assassination?

What was the role of women in the Abolition movement, in the Civil War?

This nation's early republican ideals did not extend to tens of thousands of people of African descent who were kept in enforced servitude. Treat this as a national and/or a local issue. In your area, how did people feel about slavery in the 19th century? What was the majority opinion? What did the newspapers say? What was the debate?

Trace Lincoln's positions on slavery throughout his life.

Examine the contribution of black soldiers to the Civil War effort through biography, film, diaries.

Examine the occupations of African Americans in free states in the 19th century. Plan a program around slave narratives.

Theatre in the age of Lincoln: Traveling Stock Companies in 19th century America.

If you have access to 19th century American newspapers, compare how they covered Lincoln's presidency and personal life with newspaper coverage of presidents in later periods, e.g., World War II, the 1990s.

Make the themes of the exhibition particular to your area—e.g., the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, the Abolition Movement, in New York State, Ohio, Kansas, Alabama--who were the prominent people, what were the primary political attitudes, what did people care about, how did local papers cover national politics?

What was the state of medicine in the last half of the 19th century in America: What did people do when they were sick? How was a Civil War hospital set up? What medical instruments were used at the time? What was the effect of 19th century medicine on

Lincoln? (for a long time, he took a remedy called “blue mass,” which contained toxic amounts of mercury)