Lincoln and the Telegraph: The Innovator with the Innovation
Grade Levels: 5-6

An innovator at heart, President Lincoln revolutionized the use of the telegraph during the Civil War. Lincoln used this new communications tool to gather information and assert his leadership to the front. Prior to Lincoln, rapid exchanges between the Commander-in-Chief and the generals in the field didn’t occur.

Students learn about the critical role of the telegraph in the Civil War, use telegraphs to send and receive messages that are combined to reveal one of Lincoln’s most important decisions and then view related artifacts in our exhibit, The American Ideal: Abraham Lincoln and the Second Inaugural.

College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards addressed:

**Fifth Grade**
D2.His.3.3-5. Generate relevant questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.
D2.His.4.3-5. Explain why individuals and groups during the same historical period differed in their perspectives.
D2.His.14.3-5. Explain probably causes and effects of events and developments.

**Sixth Grade**
D2.Civ.3.5-8.Examine the origins, purposes, and impact of constitutions, laws treaties international agreements.
D2.Civ.13.5-8. Analyze the purposes, implementation, and consequences of public policies in multiple settings.
D2.His.1.6-8. Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
D2.His.2.6-8. Classify series of historical events and developments as examples of change and/or continuity.
D2.His.3.6-8. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to analyze why they, and the developments they shaped, are seen as historically significant.