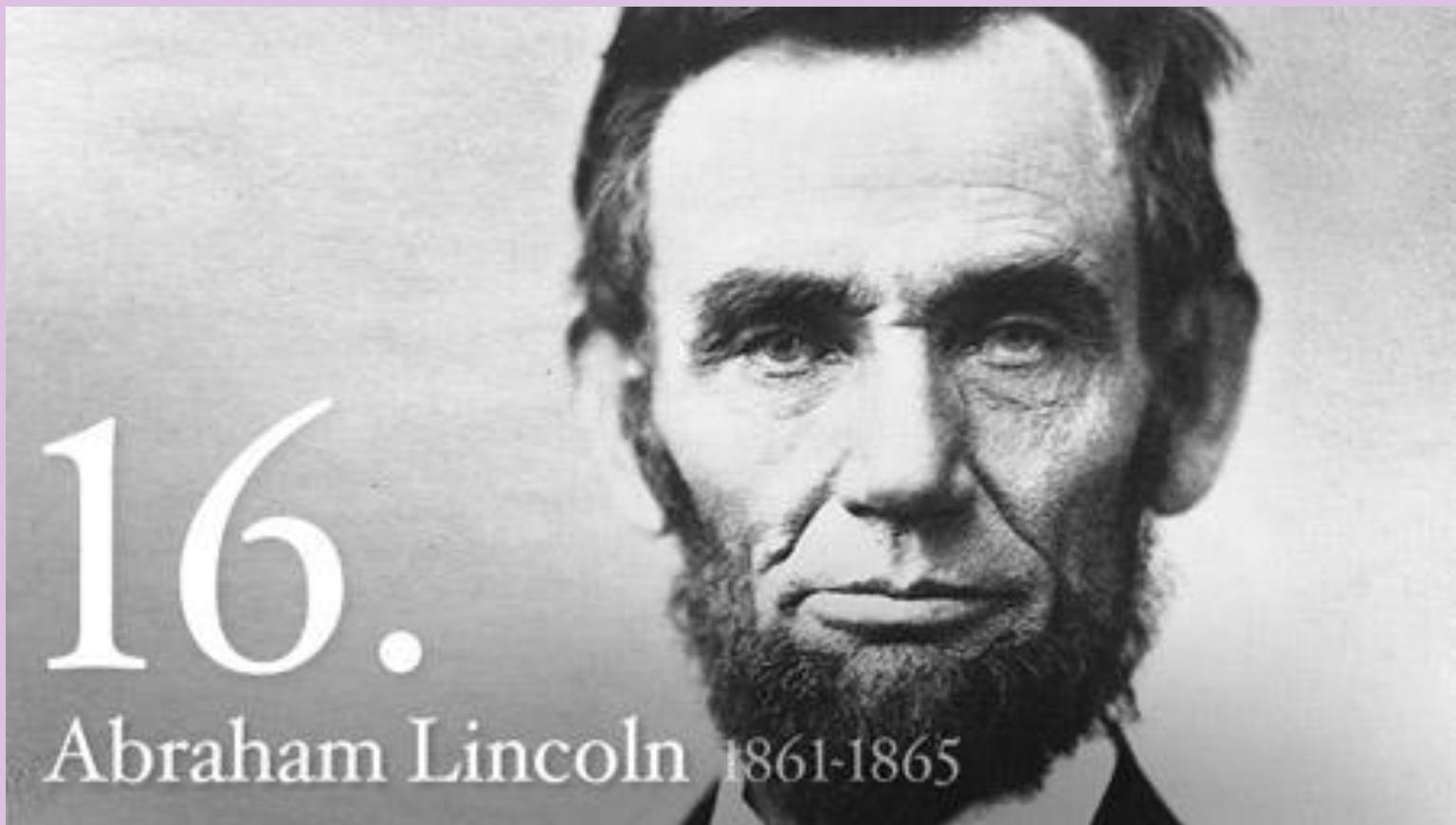
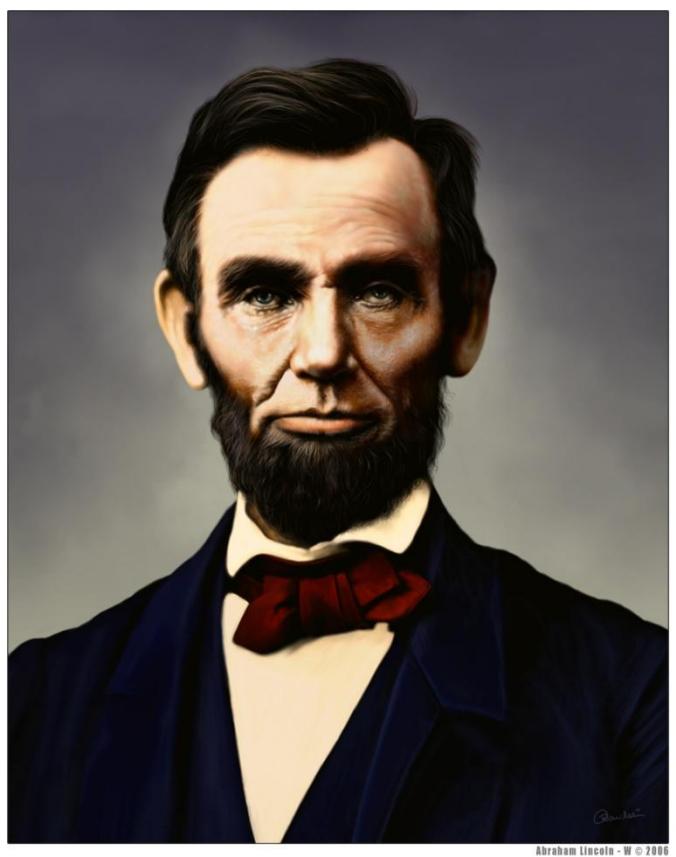


Famous American people



One of the most well-known statesmen of the USA, **Abraham Lincoln**, was born in 1809. His father was a poor farmer and the boy had to work much on their small farm. But he read a lot, too. When he grew older he felt a strong interest to law. He became a lawyer and he always tried to use the law to defend people.





Abraham Lincoln - W © 2006



In 1846 he was elected to Congress. There he said he was against slavery. **In 1860** he became **the President of the USA**. In 1864 Abraham Lincoln was elected the President again, but a year later he was killed by his enemies in a theatre in Washington.

Leonardo DiCaprio is one of the hottest young film stars around at the moment.

Leonardo DiCaprio was born in Los Angeles on November 11, 1974. He's a Scorpio.

His full name is Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio. His mother is German and his father Italian-American. They called him Leonardo because when his mother was pregnant he started kicking while she was standing in front of a painting by Leonardo Da Vinci.

His parents separated before he was born. Leo grew up in a poor neighbourhood of Hollywood.

At school he was very good at imitating people (especially Michael Jackson). This made him very popular.

His big break was his leading role in *Titanic*.





Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone was born on **16 August, 1958, in Michigan**.

She won a dance scholarship to Michigan University but dropped out and went to New York. Madonna performed in various dance troupes and bands, and was briefly a backing vocalist dancer to a French disco star.

Madonna's debut album, titled *Madonna*, was released in 1983, and although it sold three million copies it was her next album, *Like a Virgin* that made her famous.

Her music continued to be a critical and commercial success and in the past twenty years, Madonna has sold more than **250 million records**.





Madonna has two children: Lourdes and Rocco. Madonna came 8-th in the list of the most powerful celebrities 2005 in the Forbes magazine.