

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Illinois Legends: Famous People from the Prairie State



Illinois has been the birthplace of numerous famous individuals who have made significant contributions to various fields. From politics and entertainment to science and sports, the state has a rich history of producing remarkable people.

### Abraham Lincoln

One of the most iconic figures in American history, Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1809. However, he spent much of his formative years in Illinois and eventually made it his home. Lincoln went on to become the 16th President of the United States and played a pivotal role in ending slavery during the Civil War. His Gettysburg Address and Emancipation Proclamation are enduring symbols of his leadership.

### Walt Disney

Walt Disney, the visionary behind Disney theme parks and beloved animated classics, was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1901. He co-founded The Walt Disney Company, which has had an indelible impact on the world of entertainment. Disney's creations, such as Mickey Mouse and Disneyland, continue to enchant audiences of all ages.

### Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway, a Nobel Prize-winning author known for his novels like "The Old Man and the Sea" and "The Sun Also Rises," was born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1899. His concise and powerful writing style made him a literary giant of the 20th century, and his works are celebrated for their exploration of themes like courage and resilience.

### Jane Addams

Jane Addams, born in Cedarville, Illinois, in 1860, was a social reformer and suffragist. She co-founded Hull House in Chicago, a settlement house that provided support to immigrants and the urban poor. Addams' advocacy for social justice and women's rights earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

### Barack Obama

Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, but he launched his political career in Illinois. He served as a state senator and later as a U.S. Senator from Illinois before his historic election as president in 2008. His presidency was marked by significant legislative achievements and a focus on healthcare reform.

