

What is a Flashbulb Memory?

Name _____

A flashbulb memory is a memory that is remembered in great detail; often one of great national importance because of the significance or tragedy of the event. Flashbulb memories are remembered in most details by those who experienced the event, but even those who were not there remember where they were or what they were doing when the event occurred.

Think about some flashbulb moments in American History. Think of the top 3 (at least one should be within your life time). Explain why you think it is a flashbulb memory for the American people:

Flashbulb Memory Event	
Why is it a flashbulb memory? What would most people remember about this event?	
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Which event do you personally feel most connected with and remember most clearly? Why?

You may have written down that the assassination of Abraham Lincoln was a flashbulb memory for the American people. How do you think this event, and the events of Civil War affected the memory of the people who lived during this time? Be specific.

You will next look at many documents from the Central Illinois area, where Lincoln practiced law on the 8th circuit before he was president. As you analyze these sources, think about why Central Illinois remembered the man in the way that they did.