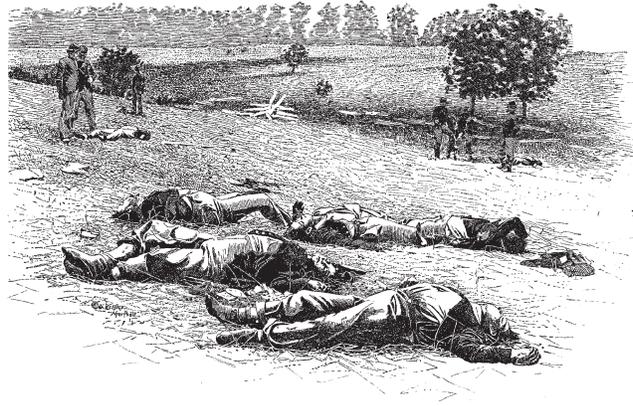


LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Lincoln gave this brief speech during the dedication of a national cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield in November 1863. It was more than four months after Union troops there stopped the Confederates in a famous battle.



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.



The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

- 1. Just above the first few words, write the number of years the United States had existed at the time Lincoln gave this speech. (“Score” is an old-fashioned word that means 20.)*
- 2. Highlight the two key ideas or principles Lincoln says the nation was based on when it was formed in 1776.*
- 3. Lincoln tells the audience that the Civil War is a kind of test for the American nation. Highlight the phrases that tell what the war was testing.*
- 4. As his speech ends, Lincoln urges his listeners to dedicate themselves to the “unfinished work” of the battle. Highlight the phrases that tell what he wants his listeners to do.*