

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

NOVEMBER 1863

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 the 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.

Name: _____ Pd: _____ Date: _____

Gettysburg Address Response Questions:

1. What is the focus of this speech? Who is President Lincoln speaking to? What had occurred at the place where the speech was given?
2. What emotions do you feel as you read the speech?
3. What major event does "four score and seven years ago" take us back to?
4. How do you think Lincoln feels or thinks about having to make this kind of speech to the American People?
5. What condition was the country in at the time Lincoln made this speech?
6. Why was Lincoln so concerned that Americans not forget what the men at Gettysburg fought for?
7. What promise or resolve does Lincoln believe Americans should make in honor of the men who fought and died at Gettysburg?

Write a 5 to 6 sentence paragraph responding to the following prompt:

Explain how the Gettysburg Address summarized what the whole Civil War is about and why the Union continued to fight the war.