

Name:

Period:

## **President Abraham Lincoln's Speech**

### **The Gettysburg Address, 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.

***First paragraph: What is Lincoln reminding people of? Why?***

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.

***Second paragraph: What is the purpose of the ceremony?***

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not 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.

***Third paragraph: Who should be honored? How should the battlefield and the Civil War be remembered?***

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**After reading, answer the following in complete sentences:**

- 1. What do you make of Lincoln's choice to name the Declaration of Independence as the moment of the founding of America?**
- 2. What does Lincoln mean by "four score and seven years ago"? Who are "our fathers"? What is the impact of Lincoln referring to such a famous date?**
- 3. What does Lincoln describe as the impact of those who fought at Gettysburg?**
- 4. How does Lincoln use the idea of "unfinished work" to assign responsibility to his listeners?**
- 5. What is another word(s) one might expect Lincoln to use in a speech during the Civil War that does not appear in the speech? What is the effect of it/them not being mentioned?**