

**Primary Documents**  
*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address – 1863*

Original Document

"Fourscore 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."

Rephrased Document

Eighty-seven years ago, our fathers started a new country based on freedom and the idea that all men are created equal. Now we are in a great civil war, testing whether or not the U.S. can survive. Today, we are standing on a piece of land where a great battle took place. We dedicate this land to all of the soldiers that died here. It is the right thing to do. However, the soldiers who fought and died here made this land holy long before today. People will not remember what we say here today, but they will long remember the battle that took place. It is for us, the living, to finish the work that these brave soldiers started, and we must further dedicate ourselves to that very job. We must not let these soldiers die in vain. This country, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not die from the earth.

---

Summary Of  
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

This is one of the most famous speeches in our country's history. In it, Lincoln brought out the principles of human equality that are found in the Declaration of Independence, and redefined the Civil War as a struggle not only for saving the Union, but also as a way to bring true equality to all its citizens. Lincoln referred to the events of the American Revolution and described the ceremony at Gettysburg as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the constant struggle of preserving our nation "of the people, by the people, for the people" so that it will not ever "perish from this earth."

**Primary Documents**  
*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address – 1863*

**Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Key Vocabulary Words:**

- 1.) Fourscore: Eighty years
- 2.) conceived: designed, planned
- 3.) engaged: involved
- 4.) endure: put up with
- 5.) fitting: appropriate
- 6.) dedicate: to hand over
- 7.) consecrate: make holy
- 8.) hallow: see consecrate
- 9.) detract: minimize, make less important
- 10.) nobly: morally
- 11.) honored: respected
- 12.) devotion: loyalty
- 13.) resolve: decide
- 14.) vain: for nothing
- 15.) perish: die

Primary Documents  
*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address – 1863*

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Multiple Choice Questions:

- 1.) "Fourscore and seven years ago" refers to
  - a.) The Declaration of Independence
  - b.) The American Revolution
  - c.) The Boston Tea Party
  - d.) The Boston Massacre
  
- 2.) Civil war means fighting against:
  - a.) brothers and/or sisters
  - b.) neighbors
  - c.) cousins
  - d.) all of the above
  
- 3.) The unfinished work Lincoln referred to was:
  - a.) a Civil War win
  - b.) that the U.S. shall not perish
  - c.) to consecrate this land
  - d.) to remember our past
  
- 4.) Our Country was started with the idea that:
  - a.) people are free
  - b.) war is a solution for the problem
  - c.) all men are created equal
  - d.) people can become rich

---

**Primary Documents**  
*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address – 1863*

**Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Open Response Questions:**

- 1.) How is the word "consecrated" used by Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address?
- 2.) Was Lincoln correct in dedicating this land to the dead soldiers? Why or why not?

