

Name 12/15
Hour _____

Gettysburg Address Primary Source Notes

1. What does "Four score and seven years ago" mean?

87 years

2. To what document is Lincoln referring in this first sentence?

Declaration of Independence
(DofI)

3. What is the purpose of the address that Lincoln is giving?

He's dedicating the cemetery to those who died at the Battle of Gettysburg.

4. Why does Lincoln say that "**we** can not dedicate—**we** can not consecrate—**we** can not hallow—this ground?" Cite evidence from the text in your response.

the men who fought have already dedicated their lives "far above our poor power to add or detract".

5. What then **can** we do, according to the address? What does Lincoln say is the task "for us the living?" Why?

that the country will be made new so those men did not die in vain.

6. What was "**that cause** for which they gave the last full measure of devotion?" Do you think all of the soldiers who died fighting at Gettysburg were fighting for the same cause? Why or why not? [Note: the cemetery was for the Union dead only]

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Gettysburg Address (Bliss Copy)

Address delivered at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon 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 battle-field 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 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 here 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.

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

Phrases Repeated: Themes of Speech

- All men are created equal
- Never Forget
- Freedom