

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Gettysburg Address - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Read the Bliss Copy of The Gettysburg Address. 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 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 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.

Which of these best describes the main point of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address?

A. The Confederate Army is to blame for the bloodshed at Gettysburg and throughout the Civil War, and must be stopped at any costs.



B.

The soldiers who died fighting in the Battle of Gettysburg did so in pursuit of preserving Liberty, and we must honor them by embodying that ideal in our actions.

*Details like "The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract" and "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" support this main idea.*

C. The American Revolutionary War was fought for the ideals of liberty and equality, and that ideal should guide us at all times.

D. In a time of war, it is important to maintain stability in the government, and therefore voters should elect Lincoln for a second term.

2. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was the sight of the bloodiest battle in the American Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg, as it would become known, occurred on July 1, 1863. The American Civil War had begun two years earlier as a result of tensions between Northern and Southern states over the legality and morality of slave ownership. Robert E. Lee, the general of the Confederate Army, commanded an army to advance into the Union territory of Pennsylvania. Union forces were initially outnumbered, but over the course of three days, they were able to drive the Confederate forces into retreat. The bloodshed at Gettysburg compelled President Abraham Lincoln to deliver his Gettysburg Address later that year. Agonized by the loss of life, Lincoln hoped that this would be a turning point toward peace. In the address he declares that a country unified in the pursuit of liberty must persist.

What did Lincoln hope would occur in the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg?

- A. Unconditional surrender from the Confederacy
- B. More enlistment into the Union armies
- ✓ C. The end of the Civil War and the beginning of peacetime
- D. For the seceded states to officially become their own country

*According to the passage, "Lincoln hoped that [the address] would be a turning point toward peace."*

3. **\*\*Lincoln's Attempts to Avoid War\*\*** When Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861, the United States was in deep turmoil over the issue of slavery. Abolitionists rallied to end the inhumane institution while others defended slavery, citing its importance to the South's economy. Rumors of Southern states conspiring to secede from the Union spread. Fearing war, Lincoln allowed slavery to continue in the South. At the same time, he worked to pass legislation that prevented new states and territories from legalizing slavery. Dissatisfied with the fact congressional representatives from non-slave states would quickly outnumber those from states that allowed slavery, 11 Southern states seceded from the United States. The Confederacy officially declared war on the Union on April 12, 1861, by attacking Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

What was the primary reason the American Civil War was fought?

- A. Abraham Lincoln being unpopular in the South
- B. Southern states wanted to move the United States capital
- ✓ C. The legality and morality of slave ownership
- D. Disagreements between states on representation in Congress

*According to the passage, Lincoln's decision to "pass legislation that prevented other states and territories from legalizing slavery" ultimately led to the secession of 11 states.*