

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Gettysburg Address

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

Read the Bliss Copy of The Gettysburg Address.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Notes

2. b'

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.

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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.

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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.

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Notes

### **Lincoln's Attempts to Avoid War**

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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.

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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.

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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.

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