

# Transcript of the Gettysburg Address

by Abraham Lincoln



*Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

**The following is a transcript of President Abraham Lincoln's speech on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:**

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 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.

# conceive con · ceive

## Advanced Definition

### transitive verb

1. to give shape to in the mind.

*He gave himself a little time to conceive a good excuse.*

*She conceived a brilliant strategy.*

2. to be able to think of or imagine.

*He is so prepared this time that I cannot conceive his failing.*

*She tried to conceive how she would look in thirty years.*

3. to become pregnant with.

*It was not long before she conceived her first child.*

4. to begin or originate.

*Our book group was conceived over twelve years ago.*

### intransitive verb

1. to become pregnant.

*They had been married for several years but his wife had not conceived.*

2. to form a concept, idea, or image in one's mind (usu. fol. by of).

*I could never have conceived of his running away like that.*

*The chef conceived of a fabulous new dessert.*

## Spanish cognate

*concebir*: The Spanish word *concebir* means conceive.

## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The sight that met us was beyond anything one could **conceive**, the famous archaeologist wrote in his diary.
2. [Giant pandas] are difficult to breed because females ovulate [release eggs] only once a year and are fertile [able to **conceive**] for just two days.

# dedicate ded · i · cate

## Advanced Definition

### transitive verb

1. to set apart or declare to be for a special use or purpose, as a worthy cause, public benefit, or sacred activities.

*These funds are dedicated to improving the transportation system.*

*We all must dedicate some time and effort to solving this problem.*

*All the profits are dedicated to medical research.*

2. to devote (oneself or one's life) to a particular person, cause, or course of action.

*He will have to dedicate himself to his studies if he wants to go to medical school.*

*She dedicated her life to helping others.*

3. to address or inscribe (a book or the like) to a particular person as a token of affection or respect.

*This library is dedicated to the founder of the university.*

*I would like to dedicate this song to my lovely wife.*

## Spanish cognate

*dedicar*: The Spanish word *dedicar* means dedicate.

## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. He decided to **dedicate** one of his symphonies to Napoleon.
2. "But, in a larger sense, we can not**dedicate** - we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground."

# devotion

 de · vo · tion

## Advanced Definition

### noun

1. great attachment; strong affection.

*He felt great devotion towards his aunt, who had raised him as her own.*

2. ardent or zealous concern for.

*Her devotion to the cause of civil rights was without parallel.*

3. (often pl.) religious worship.

## Spanish cognate

*devoción*: The Spanish word *devoción* means devotion.

## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. When asked why she thought the astronaut wives' stories were ignored for so long, she said, "The wives saw their **devotion** as part as their duty."
2. In a letter to his sister, he wrote: "With all my **devotion** to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my home."
3. "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, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the speech, what was the new nation dedicated to?

- A. the creation of a final resting place
- B. the proposition that all men are created equal
- C. a great civil war
- D. a new birth of freedom

2. In this speech, what is Abraham Lincoln trying to persuade people to do?

- A. to fight in a great civil war
- B. to dedicate a field to brave men who fought in Gettysburg
- C. to continue the work of the people who fought and died in Gettysburg
- D. to create two new nations dedicated to equality and liberty

3. Read this sentence from the text:

"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."

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can you draw about the cause "these honored dead" fought and died for?

- A. They fought and died for the government and nation to survive in freedom.
- B. They fought and died in order to be honored by the government.
- C. They fought and died to show their devotion to the people they loved.
- D. They fought and died to create a new nation with a new government.

**4. Read these sentences from the text:**

"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."

Why might Lincoln have used the words "us" and "we" in this excerpt?

- A. to prove to his listeners that he is as sad about the many deaths as they are
- B. to suggest that he does not have more power than any of his listeners
- C. to make his listeners feel like they should have given their lives to the cause
- D. to create a sense of closeness and shared goals among the people listening

**5. What is the main message of this speech?**

- A. We cannot dedicate, consecrate, or hallow the ground at the Soldiers' National Cemetery.
- B. We must honor the dead by ensuring that this nation endures and has a new birth of freedom.
- C. Our fathers brought forth a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
- D. We must dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives to the nation.

**6. Read these sentences from the text:**

"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."

Based on this evidence, what is the meaning of the word "dedicated" in this excerpt?

- A. unsure or uncertain of a task
- B. unsupportive of a task
- C. committed or devoted to a task
- D. lazy or indifferent about a task

7. Read these sentences from the text:

"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."

To whom or what does the word "they" in the second sentence refer?

- A. the world
- B. the dead
- C. the brave men
- D. those with poor power

8. According to the Gettysburg Address, why did Lincoln and his listeners come to the battlefield in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863?

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9. What "great task" still remained for the living, according to Lincoln's speech?

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**10.** What was the purpose of the Gettysburg Address?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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