

Name: _____

Comprehending The Gettysburg Address

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln delivered one of the most famous American speeches—the Gettysburg Address. The text of the Gettysburg Address has been divided up into five text boxes below. Use the Visual Thesaurus to define the words in **bold** print below and answer the related questions to learn more about Lincoln’s famous message to Americans.

1.

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.

score: _____

What year was “four score and seven years” before 1863? What happened that year?

2.

Now we are engaged in a great **civil war**, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

civil war: _____

What were the two sides that fought against one another in the American Civil War?

3.

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.

dedicate: _____

Why has Lincoln traveled to this civil war battlefield?

4.

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.

consecrate: _____

hallow: _____

Why does Lincoln say that he cannot consecrate or hallow the battlefield?

5.

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.

devotion: _____

resolve: _____

in vain: _____

perish: _____

What work or duty does Lincoln believe has been left to Americans?
