

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The famous Battle of Gettysburg was fought for just three days in July, 1863, between the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia led by General Robert E. Lee, and the Union Army of the Potomac led by General George G. Meade. The Union army seemed to be fighting a losing battle. But on the third day, July 3, the tides turned and the Confederate army was forced into a retreat. Some believe that if General Meade had gone further and pursued the Confederate Army as they retreated, he may have ended the Civil War right then. But Meade and his troops were exhausted, and they did not pursue. The war went on for two more years. But this battle marked a major turning point in the war—the North began to see more victories, and consequently the South never recovered from the damages of it. There were over 51,000 total *casualties* at the Battle of Gettysburg.

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln attended a ceremony at to dedicate the battlefield as a military cemetery. After the main *orator* Edward Everett spoke for two hours, President Lincoln delivered a short, two-minute long speech, which ended up leaving most of his audience unimpressed. However, you may know this speech as the famous Gettysburg Address. It was short, yet *poignant*, and today many people see it as a symbol of Democracy.



The site of the Battle of Gettysburg was officially made a National Military Park in 1895.

Crowd during
Lincoln's Gettysburg
Address in 1863

Vocabulary

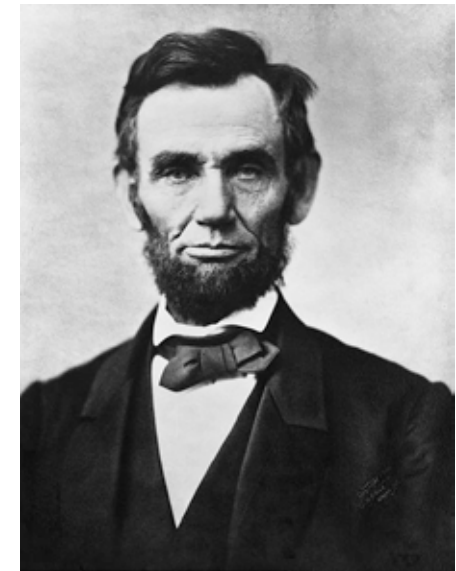
Casualties: deaths or injuries, especially of military forces during war time

Orator: a public speaker

Poignant: very sincere, moving, and emotional

Critical Thinking

Read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on page 2 of this worksheet. What makes this speech so poignant? Can you find places in the text that symbolize the spirit of Democracy?



THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

DELIVERED
BY
ABRAHAM
LINCOLN
NOV. 19 1863



AT THE
DEDICATION
SERVICES
ON THE
BATTLE FIELD

Fourscore 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 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 the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

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Anniversary poster of
Gettysburg Address
from 1909