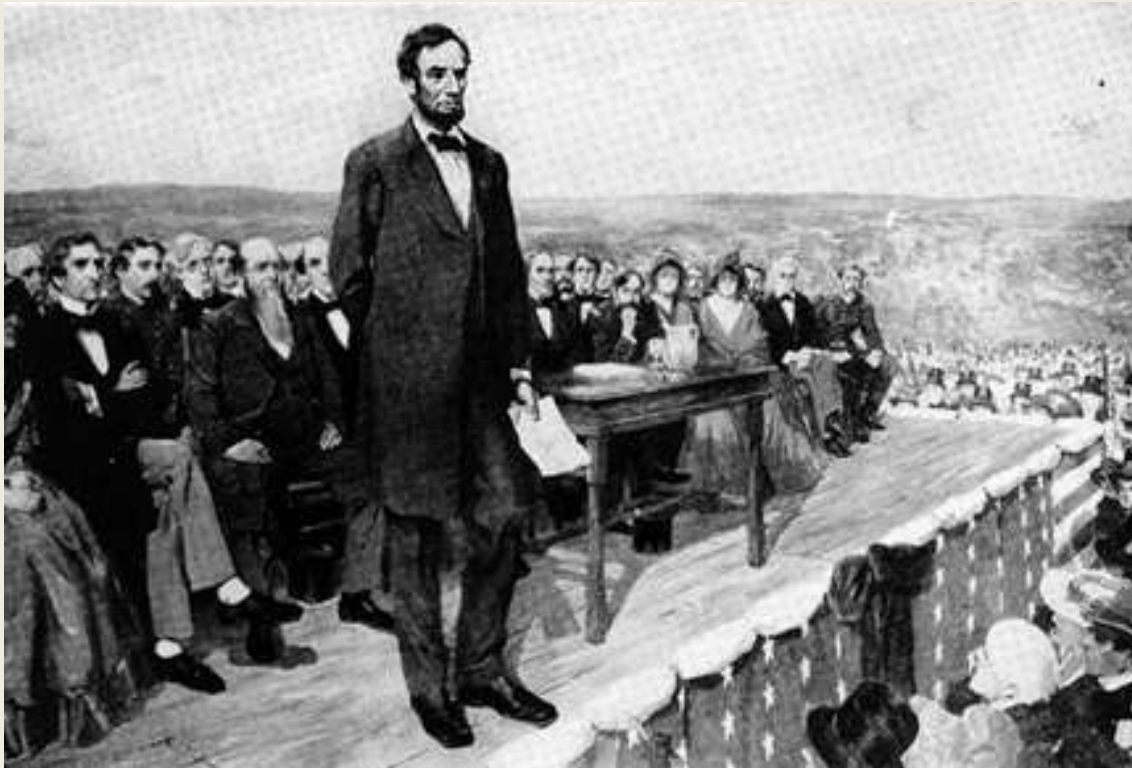


The Gettysburg Address



Politics and Slavery, part 7

ACTIVITY KEY

Rewrite = rewrite the sentence to make correct

Complete = write the correct answer that completes the idea

Cloze = underline the correct word in the reading

Text = define the word or revise a text feature

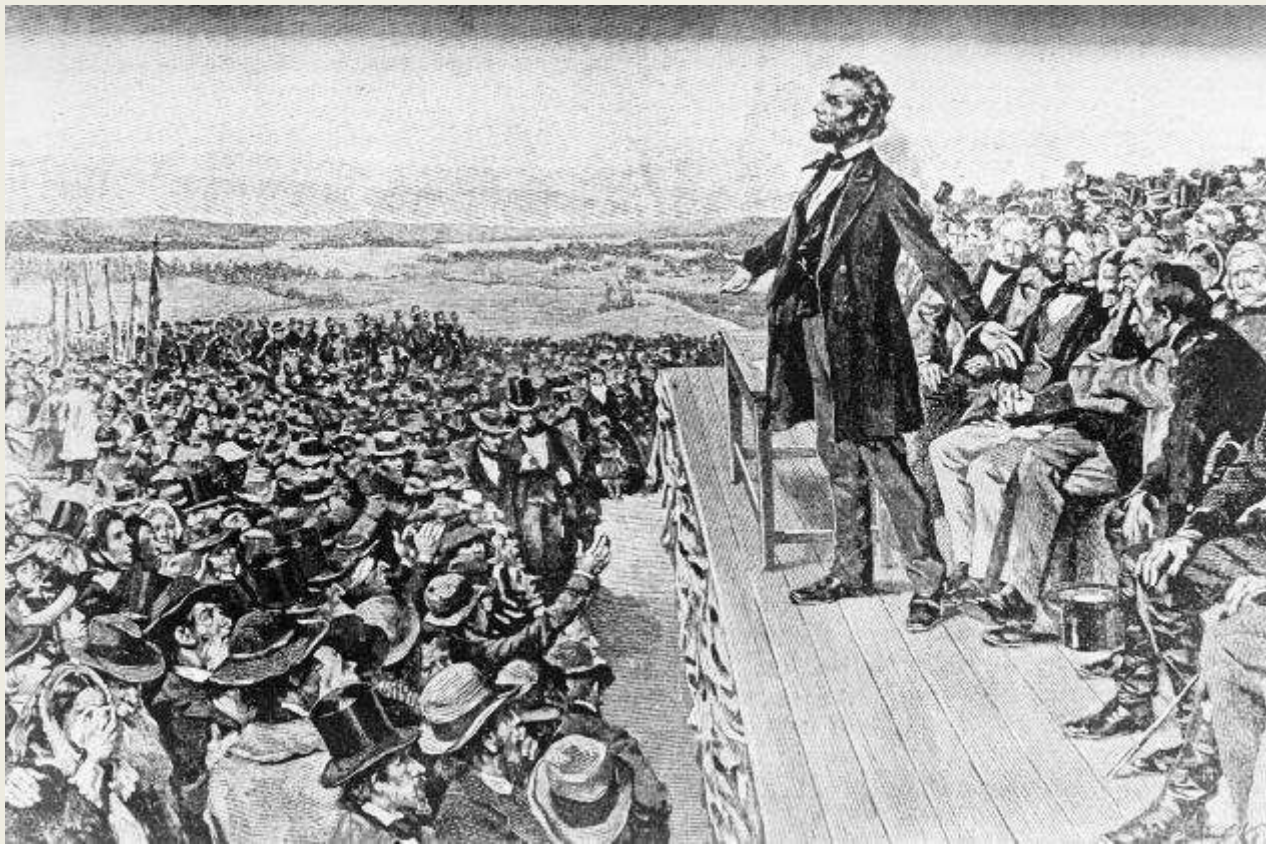
Interact = interact with media/text

Opinion = give your own opinion



= complete the interactive notebook and/or test

Abraham Lincoln gives a speech on November 19, 1863 that is shocking and surprising. The speech is called the Gettysburg Address. It happens four months after the biggest battle of the Civil War. It happens at a time when Lincoln's point-of-view about slavery is changing. It is considered one of the greatest speeches in American History.



The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect January 1, 1863. If we remember, this legal document effectively gave the Union Army the job of emancipating and enlisting slaves in the Confederacy. This means that wherever the Union Army went, it could free slaves. Then, the military could give them recruit them as soldiers to fight against their ex-masters.

The Union army was tearing up the “West,” in states like Missouri and Tennessee, they were finally winning battles. In these states, the Union Army was recruiting many freed blacks to fight for the North.

So, in 1863 it seems like Lincoln is changing his opinion. We don’t see the moderate Lincoln who wants slow emancipation and views slavery as a right to property, anymore. No! Now, we see a Lincoln who wants to win the Civil War and abolish slavery. He sees this as a war of different civilizations!

Complete/Rewrite

1. Lincoln's greatest speech was the Emancipation Proclamation.
2. The legal document or executive order that emancipated slaves in the Confederacy is called the Gettysburg Address.
3. President Lincoln did not change his opinion on slavery during the course of the Civil War.
4. Lincoln's opinion on slavery slowly changes from moderate to...

The Union Army still couldn't beat General Robert E. Lee in Virginia. Remember: the Confederate capital and the largest Confederate army are both in Virginia. Many of the large battles take place in Virginia. But nobody can beat Lee. He is too smart. He always knows what his enemy will do next.

However... Virginia is not the "heart" of the Confederacy. When we say "heart of the confederacy," what do you think about? Probably slaves and cotton plantations... This is the Deep South. Virginia is not the Deep South.

Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina are the Deep South. The only way you get to these places is if you walk through Virginia. Or... you could take a boat ride down the Mississippi River.



Interact Trace the Mississippi River. Shade //// the Deep South.

The Mississippi River was like the super highway of the United States during the Civil War. It was big enough for huge boats, carrying whatever you needed from North to South. It connected the middle of the United States kind of like our highways do now. Well, now it is time to introduce another character: General Ulysses S. Grant.

General Ulysses S. Grant was not like Robert E. Lee. He didn't do well in military school. He wasn't respected. He drank a lot and got bored. He was working in a leather shop when the war started. But he became the hero of the Union because of the Civil War. He spent the early years of the war in the "West." Like we said before, the West was like Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. Grant slowly won battle after battle. Some historians later said that Grant won because he was so bad at military school, he did the opposite of what he should do! Maybe it's good to do poorly in school!?

General Grant was tearing up the West! He was winning so many battles and was very close to taking control of the Mississippi River. If he took the Mississippi River, then he could just send his army all the way down the river. He could do whatever he wanted in the Deep South. He could free slaves, attack plantations, destroy cotton... He just needed to take that Mississippi.

So, the Confederacy had to do something. They were in danger. General Robert E. Lee had a plan. It was similar to what he tried before. He was going to invade the North. He was going to march his Confederate army up to Philadelphia and camp outside the city. He wanted to intimidate the North. Lee wanted the North to give up, or at least to send their soldiers away from the Mississippi and back in the "East."

Robert E. Lee invaded the North. He went through northern Maryland into Pennsylvania. There, near the small town of Gettysburg, he ran into the enemy.

Complete/Rewrite

1. The Mississippi River was important because...
2. Robert E. Lee controlled the areas of the “West” near the Mississippi River.
3. Ulysses S. Grant was winning many battles in Virginia.
4. If the Union took control of the Mississippi, they could conquer the _____, where all the slaves and cotton plantations were.
5. General Lee needed to distract Grant, so he decided to....
(Hint: he’s done this before)

The Union and Confederate army met for a three-day battle at Gettysburg. Lee's invasion didn't get as far as he wanted, and now he had to fight a big battle. Still, Gettysburg is in the North, so if he won, Lee would be a big hero.

The Battle of Gettysburg lasted three days. It involved the largest number of casualties (dead, hurt, or missing soldiers). The casualties were equal on both sides. In three days, 51,000 soldiers were casualties.

Even though both sides lost almost an equal amount of soldiers, Lee had to retreat. He was in a very dangerous position and couldn't get trapped in the North without any help. So, he retreated or went back to Virginia.



The Battle of Gettysburg is considered to be a turning point of the war. Before this battle, the Confederacy is seen to be winning the Civil War. After this battle, which happens in July of 1863, the Union is seen as winning the Civil War. Around the same time, Grant takes control of the Mississippi. The Union beat Lee! The Union controls the West!

Really, the Civil War goes on for a long time after. The year of 1864 sees more deaths than any other year. Lee goes back to Virginia and continues to work his magic: The Union just can't beat him in Virginia. But that's a different story...

Complete/Rewrite

1. Lee decided to invade the North, but he got stopped near the small town of _____.
2. The Battle of Gettysburg was the smallest battle of the Civil War.
3. There were _____ casualties were there on both sides at Gettysburg.
4. The Confederacy won the battle of Gettysburg and the Union was forced to retreat back to Virginia.

Think

Why is Gettysburg a turning point? What is a turning point?

Now, let's get to Lincoln's speech. The Gettysburg Address is considered by many people to be the greatest American speech in history. Some people consider it one of the best speeches in the world. It is kind of funny because the Gettysburg Address is a short speech. It lasted two minutes. The camera was a new invention back then... the camera men didn't even have a chance to take Lincoln's picture giving the speech. They got him walking back to his seat.

The Gettysburg Address happens at the dedication of a cemetery in Gettysburg. It happened four months after the battle. Lincoln wasn't the main speaker. The main speaker was Edward Everett. He gave two hour speech that nobody remembers now. Lincoln's speech was supposed to be like a dedication. It's kind of like when someone says a few words at a funeral as they lower the casket into the ground.

Lincoln packed all of the emotion and meaning of the war into his speech. His speech was only ten sentences. It only lasted two minutes. But it was directly to the point. Remember Edward Everett... he gave the two hour speech right before Lincoln. Later on, he wrote Lincoln and said:

"I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

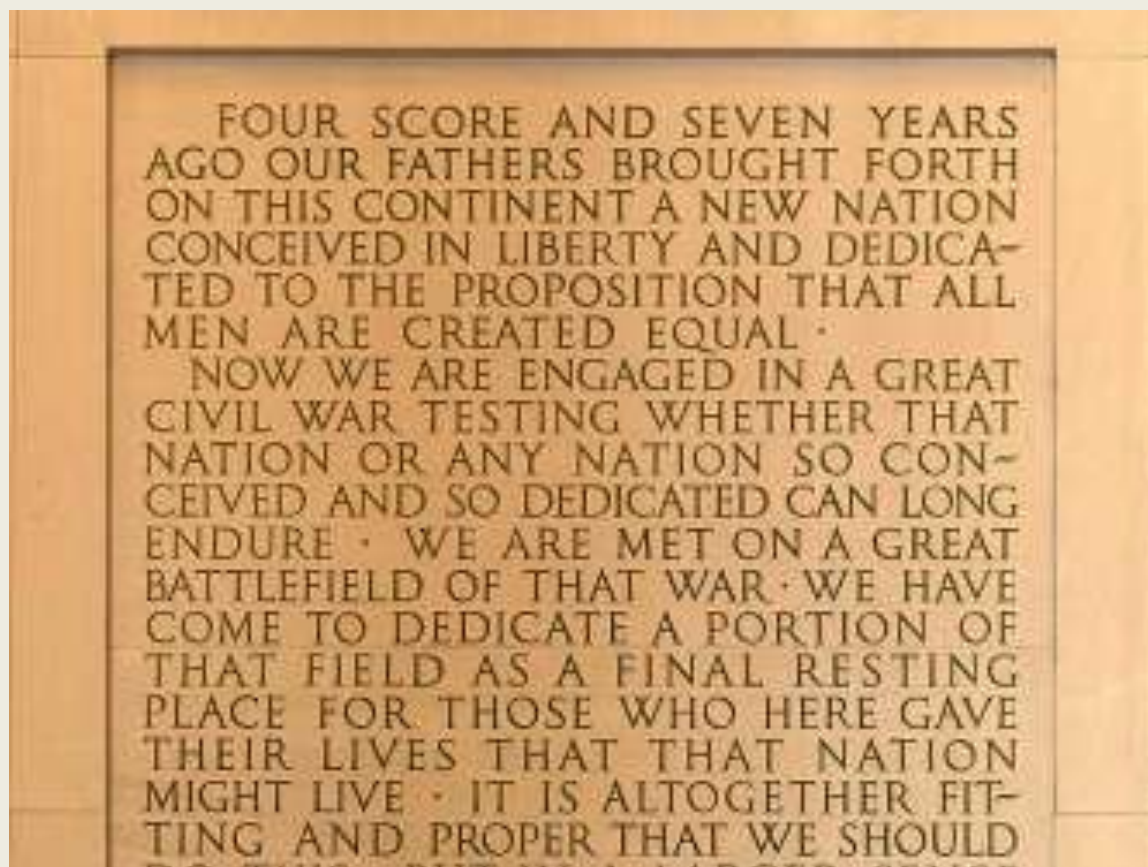
In other words, you told the whole story of the war in two minutes, while I had it for two hours.

Rewrite

1. The Gettysburg Address happened immediately after the Battle of Gettysburg.
2. Abraham Lincoln was the main speaker at the Gettysburg dedication. He gave a two hour speech that nobody remember.
3. Lincoln's speech was a dedication to the leaders and politicians of the Union.
4. There are many photographs of Lincoln giving this speech because he spoke for so long.

Think

4. What did Edward Everett mean in his letter to Lincoln?
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Interact Here is the address on a famous monument. Can you guess where this is?

The speech is so great because it talks about everything. It starts out with the famous words: “Four score and seven years ago....” A score is the same as twenty, so it’s a nice way of saying: 87 years ago. He’s talking about the founding of the United States. Lincoln says the United States was a great experiment. In other words, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and all tried to create a country based on “all men are created equal.” Here, Lincoln is using words from the **Declaration of Independence**.

Why does Lincoln focus on the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States? Well, for most of the US History, **ALL MEN WERE NOT TREATED EQUALLY!** Even Jefferson, who wrote those words, had slaves.

Lincoln goes on to talk about the current situation. He says: “Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.” So, the United States is in this Civil War to see whether we can make this experiment of democracy can work.

Complete

1. Four score and seven years ago means...
2. Lincoln starts his speech talking about...
3. Lincoln references the famous document of American History called the....
4. Lincoln focuses on the declaration that “All men are _____”
5. Lincoln sees the United States as an experiment of _____.

Think

6. At that time, why isn't it possible to say: All Men are Created Equal?

Then, he talks about where he is at that very moment. He's on a battlefield where men have died for their country. He's supposed to dedicate it because he's a big important guy, the president of the United States. But he doesn't feel like he needs to because: "The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract." Or, the soldiers who died here have already dedicated this land to freedom: they died for it! Then, he says the world won't remember what he says here, but they will always remember the soldiers who died.

Lincoln says: "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."

He reminds the audience that the soldiers better not have died for nothing. He suggests that there is a “new birth of freedom” or another Revolution, which is against slavery. This second Revolution is to really get right those things that Thomas Jefferson said in the Declaration of Independence: that all men are created equal and the government is for the people and by the people.

Complete

1. Lincoln says he can't really dedicate this cemetery because...
 2. Lincoln considers that the US having a new birth of freedom, which is...
 3. Lincoln says we fight for a government _____ the people, _____ the people, and _____ the people.
-

So, in this speech, Lincoln has really put into words what many people felt. They wanted to believe that all this death was for something great, and that America was a great nation worth dying for.

With the Gettysburg Address, we see the character of the war changing. The war is now about two civilizations: the United States where all men are created equal and the United States that doesn't live up to this expectation.

Think

1. Why is the Gettysburg Address considered a great speech?
 2. What parts of the Declaration of Independence does Lincoln use in his speech?
 3. Why does Lincoln use the Declaration of Independence in his speech?
 4. How has Lincoln's opinion on slavery changed over time?
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