###### “The Gettysburg Address”

### ***Speaker***: Abraham Lincoln

***Date***: November 19, 1863

***Occasion***: Eulogy at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg

***Summary***: In this speech President Lincoln eulogized the fallen soldiers of the Battle at Gettysburg. He summarizes in three paragraphs the heart of the American people—past, present, and future. Lincoln made a connection with the past by emphasizing the reasons the colonies were settled—liberty and equality. He related the past to the present by explaining, very briefly, the reason the Civil War is being fought—to secure the liberty and equality of the founders. Finally, the president praised the sacrifice of the soldiers, “living and dead,” who fought at Gettysburg for these ideals. Lincoln challenged those remaining to continue the fight.

***Significance***: The Battle of Gettysburg, July 2-4, 1863, marked the furthest extent of the southern advance into the Union. With the defeat here, the Confederates were forced to end their offensive strategy and retreat to the South. Because of the large numbers of casualties at the battle and the mid-summer’s heat, the dead were buried at the new national cemetery rather than moved to other cemeteries. President Lincoln gave the dedication speech.

The Gettysburg Address is one of the most famous speeches ever delivered. It’s brevity makes it powerful—Lincoln accomplished much with few words. He succeeded in inspiring the living to continue the fight of the fallen. His final words of the “government of the people, by the people, for the people” have come to symbolize the American representative spirit.

*You may not use this speech in your project* ☹

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

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 noble 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 resolved 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.