

## The Gettysburg Address

**President Lincoln gave this speech at the dedication of the battlefield cemetery at Gettysburg.**

1 Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation,  
2 conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."  
3 Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so  
4 conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.  
5 We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here,  
6 that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not  
7 dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow, this ground-- The brave men, living and  
8 dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The  
9 world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they  
10 did here.  
11 It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that,  
12 from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave  
13 the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in  
14 vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by  
15 the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863