

# The Gettysburg Address Scavenger Hunt

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

1. Fourscore is another way of saying 80. So, when President Abraham Lincoln writes "fourscore and seven years ago," he is saying 87 years ago. Search the newspaper for the number 80 and the number 7. Try scanning the Classifieds and Sports Sections. Then, write your own sentence using these numbers.
2. When Lincoln refers to "this continent" he is referring to North America. In the newspaper today, locate cities on each of the seven continents. Use the weather page if necessary. Is there a continent that does not have a city represented? If so, why?
3. Our nation is the United States of America. Circle all the stories in today's newspaper that relate to national news. Based on those stories, what are the most important issues facing the nation?
4. Liberty is the state of being free from oppression, tyranny, confinement or slavery. It is freedom. Find an issue in today's newspaper that you feel challenges your personal liberty. Then, write a letter to the editor that discusses how to solve this issue.
5. The phrase "all men are created equal" is part of the opening phrase of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776. In today's paper, find individuals of different races, sexes, and/or classes. Pretend you are a reporter and pick one of these to interview. Create questions to ask him or her about equality. Does he or she feel he or she is treated fairly?
6. The American Civil War took place from 1861-1865. Eleven southern states seceded from the United States and formed the Confederacy, which fought unsuccessfully against the Union, in the deadliest war in American history. How many of those eleven states are mentioned in the newspaper today?
7. To endure means to continue to exist. For example, Abraham Lincoln's words have endured over time. Scan the ads and classifieds for an item that you think has endured the test of time. How long has it existed? How much longer do you think it will last? Why? What makes it special?

8. The Gettysburg address was given at the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for those soldiers who had already died during the ongoing Civil War. The United States is fighting wars today in Afghanistan and Iraq. Find information on those wars and those “who gave their lives” for our nation in the newspaper today. Then, thank them by writing a letter to the troops, creating a memorial, or collecting items for a care-package.
9. Lincoln refers to the soldiers of the Civil War as “brave men.” Write your own definition of bravery. Then search the newspaper for examples of people who meet your definition. Why is the selected person considered brave?
10. Editorials typically revolve around the news of the day, so they are very timely; what is said today may not be remembered tomorrow. Read the editorials in today’s newspaper. Then trace the opinions to their related news articles by both scanning the newspaper and accessing the online news database. How many news articles relate to the opinion? Will this issue be important next month or next year?
11. Abolitionists, dedicated their time, resources and lives to fight for the freedom of slaves during the 1800s. Lincoln recognized that their sacrifices should not be in vain. Many people continue to dedicate themselves to causes that matter. Over the next month, create a scrapbook or bulletin board of articles about people who dedicate themselves to important causes in the community.
12. The words in Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address are often used to describe democracy. In today’s newspaper, find all the examples of government at work and write them on a sheet of paper. Then, for each example, explain how each is 1) of the people 2) by the people 3) for the people. After completely this exercise, write an essay explaining whether you think democracy is functioning well in today’s America.

*Created by Sara B. Amberg, Educational Services Coordinator, Tulsa World Publishing Company, 2009.*