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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 our devotion— that we here highly resolve that this shall not have been in vain. That this nation, 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.
Executive Mansion,  
Washington, _________, 186__.  

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal.”

Now that we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow, this ground—The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain, that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people by the people for, the people, shall not perish from the earth.

QUESTIONS
Answer the following questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.
1. Where did President Lincoln deliver this speech? At what event or occasion was it delivered?
2. To whom did Lincoln deliver the speech? Who is the “we” to whom Lincoln refers in the second paragraph?
3. When Lincoln says, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation . . .,” what historical event does he mean?
4. Which line includes a famous phrase from the Declaration of Independence? Why does Lincoln refer to the Declaration?
5. Which part of the speech most clearly shows President Lincoln honoring the soldiers who gave their lives at Gettysburg?
6. The Emancipation Proclamation had been issued by the time Lincoln delivered this address, yet he omits the words “slavery” and “emancipation.” Why do you think Lincoln made this choice?
7. Lincoln gave this address to honor soldiers who died in a battle that showed how bitterly divided the nation was in 1863. How does Lincoln’s speech emphasize national unity?
8. The battle at Gettysburg left more than 51,000 wounded or dead. What part of Lincoln’s address recognizes the enormity of the horror of battle? What does Lincoln ask of “the living” to honor the fallen soldiers?
9. In an age when citizens were accustomed to lengthy public speeches, Lincoln’s address at the Gettysburg ceremony was relatively brief. Yet according to historians, he was interrupted by applause five times. Which lines do you think received the most applause, and why?