



Name _____ Date _____

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Perhaps the most famous battle of the Civil War was the one in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At the end of the battle, over 50,000 soldiers were wounded, missing, or killed. The Union and Confederate armies had each lost thousands of men. Many of the bodies were buried in shallow graves along the battlefield. The Union army wanted to do better than that.

The Union army was able to get land for a cemetery in Gettysburg. This cemetery was dedicated in November of that year. Edward Everett was asked to speak at the dedication. He was a great speaker of that time. President Abraham Lincoln was also asked to speak. He was the president during the Civil War.

On the day of the dedication, Mr. Everett spoke for two hours. When it was President Lincoln's turn, he spoke for two minutes. He didn't think it was a very good speech, but it went on to be considered one of the greatest speeches of all time. It became known as the Gettysburg Address. In his speech, Lincoln talked about the "new birth of freedom." His words inspired many people then, and they continue to inspire many people today.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - "Mr. Everett's Speech"
 - "The Dedication of the Cemetery"
 - "Lincoln's Famous Address"
 - "Union and Confederate Soldiers"
- What conclusions can be drawn about the battle of Gettysburg?
 - It was one of the deadliest battles of the Civil War.
 - It was a pivotal battle at the beginning of the war.
 - President Lincoln approved of the battle.
 - It was fought in a poor location.
- Which statement explains why President Lincoln's speech was so well received?
 - It inspired people to keep fighting.
 - It inspired people to go home and think.
 - It was used to encourage the wounded and dying soldiers.
 - It inspired people to think about their freedoms and reasons for fighting.
- What is the meaning of the phrase "new birth of freedom" in the passage?
 - It is the idea that we are connected and shouldn't pull apart.
 - It is a willingness to sacrifice and stick together.
 - It is the idea that there was a new idea of freedom coming to light.
 - It is the idea that you should never give up or turn away when times are tough.