

English Language Arts Lesson

The Gettysburg Address	
Research Topic	President Abraham Lincoln and The Gettysburg Address
Grad Level	High School/Grades 9 – 12
Time Required	1 class period (30 – 45 minutes)
Ohio's Learning Standards English Language Arts	Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects RH.9-10.2 Analyze content-area-specific text development. a. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source. b. Provide an accurate and objective summary of how events or ideas develop over the course of the text. RH.11-12.2 Analyze content-area-specific text development. a. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source. b. Provide an accurate and objective summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
Objective	Students will read President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to gain an understanding of his speech during the American Civil War and how his leadership and oratorical delivery captured a critical moment in U.S. history.
Assignment	Have students read the Gettysburg Address. Give students 4 – 5 minutes to reflect on the words of President Lincoln. Have students read and answer each question and discuss their answers in small groups. End the lesson by having students share their answers and thoughts and reflect on how the speech is relevant to today's social and political climate.
Rubric	See attached

President Abraham Lincoln

16th President of the United States of America

Veteran

Service: Illinois Militia

Years of Service: April 21, 1832 – July 10, 1832

Rank: Private, May 28, 1832 – July 10, 1832

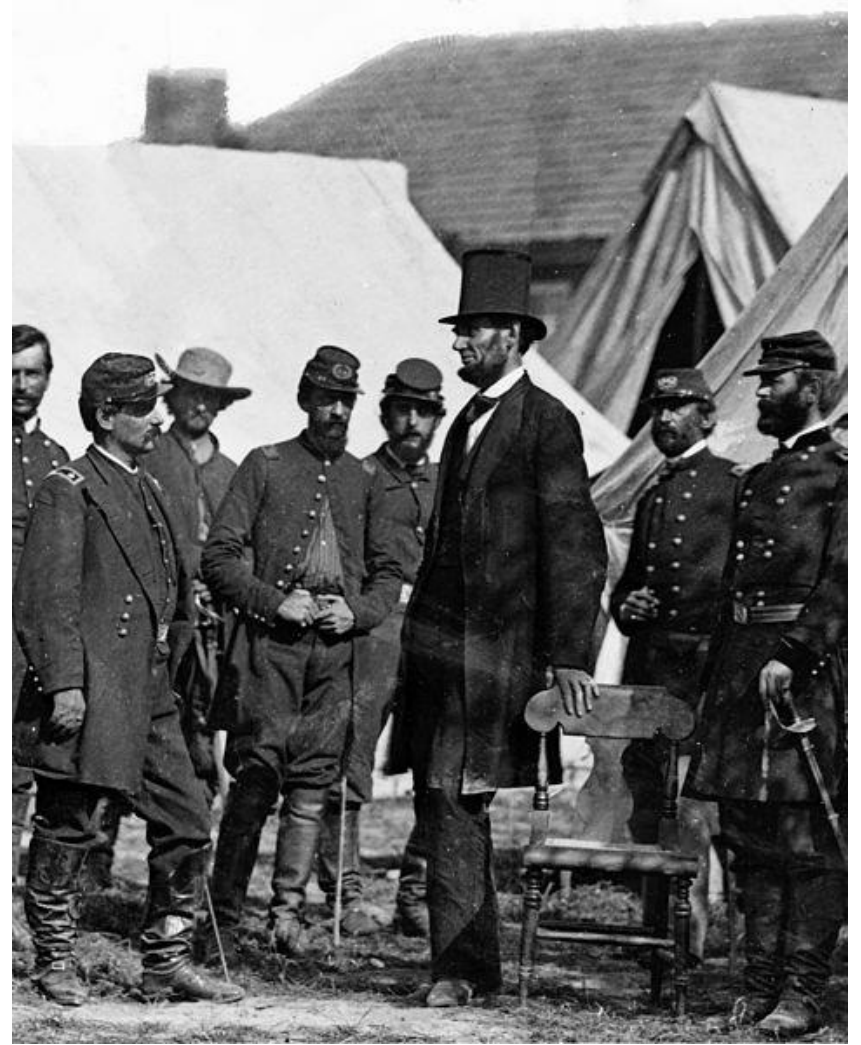
Captain, April 21, 1832 – May 27, 1832

Abraham Lincoln served as a volunteer in the Illinois Militia, April 21, 1832 – July 10, 1832, during the Black Hawk War. The Black Hawk War was a brief conflict between Native Americans and the United States. The war involved the Sauks, Meskwakis, and the Kickapoos and began after they crossed the Mississippi River in the state of Illinois. The dispute was over the 1804 land Treaty of St. Louis. While Lincoln never saw combat during his tour, he was elected captain of his first company and was responsible for burring dead militiamen after two of the war's battles

Through his military service Lincoln was able to establish lasting political connections. Such relationships were important when he ran for the office of president of the United States. His leadership skills and service in the military prepared him for his role as commander in chief during the U.S. Civil War.

The Battle of Gettysburg took place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1 – 3, 1863, between the Union and Confederate forces during the American Civil War. On November 19, 1863, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated the Confederacy troops, President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address for the Consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. Today, his speech is considered one of the best-known speeches in American History.

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans by sharing their stories and connecting students to the Veteran experience. Visit our website www.nationalvmm.org for more educational resources.



President Lincoln with General George B. McClellan and a group of officers
Antietam, Maryland
October 3, 1862
Alexander Gardner
Library of Congress

Gettysburg Address

Four score 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.

How long ago was this time mentioned by President Lincoln?

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.

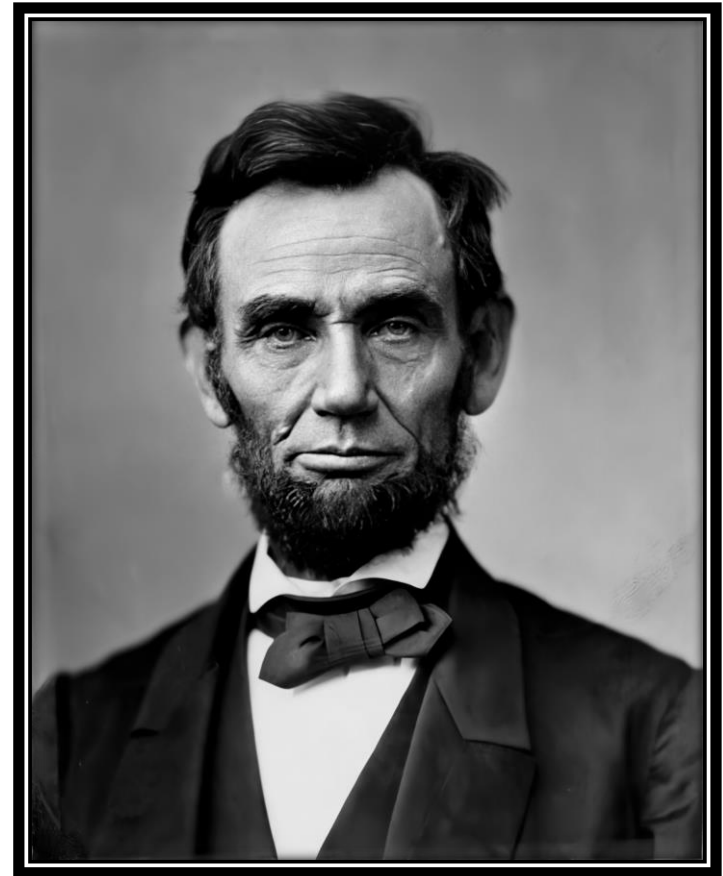
In 1863, when President Lincoln spoke these words, why would this be considered a controversial statement?

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate— we can not consecrate—we can not 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.

An estimated 620,000 men lost their lives during the Civil War, as a nation today, how do Americans honor the legacy of those Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice?

President Lincoln reminds us that each generation must continue to work hard in the spirit of freedom. Today, in what ways are we honoring our country's Civil War Veterans?

Elected 16th president of the United States in November 1860, Abraham Lincoln took office shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War. Lincoln proved to be a pragmatic military strategist and a wise leader. His Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for slavery's abolition, while his Gettysburg Address stands as one of the most famous speeches in American history. Take a moment to read his speech, analyze his words and discover how his words are important to American society today.



President Lincoln, 1863
Google image

President Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863