

Past Meets Present Answer Key

Reflection Questions: Sample Responses

1. **Similarities:** Both see equality as central to freedom and democracy.
2. **Differences in challenges:** Lincoln focused on national survival during war; the modern article focuses on ongoing fairness in daily life.
3. **Purpose comparison:** Lincoln's was a wartime speech to inspire and unify; the modern text aims to raise awareness and push for civic action.
4. **Importance of perspectives:** Studying both shows how the idea of equality is timeless but must be reinterpreted for each generation's struggles.

Teacher Notes

- This activity highlights the **continuity of themes** across time while recognizing new contexts.
- Encourage students to notice **tone**: Lincoln is solemn and formal, while the modern editorial is urgent and practical.
- Differentiation:
 - Struggling learners can underline key phrases ("all men are created equal" / "challenges remain in education").
 - Advanced learners can extend by comparing to another modern example (e.g., a speech by Malala Yousafzai or Barack Obama).