

Name _____



Words at Gettysburg

Directions: Read the excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address* (1863). Think about what Lincoln wanted his audience to understand. Answer the questions about the **main message** and **historical importance**. Use complete sentences and support your answers with evidence from the text.

Gettysburg Address (Excerpt)

"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. 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.

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. ... 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. What is the **main message** of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address?

2. Why was this message important at the time it was delivered (during the Civil War)?

3. Which phrase or sentence in the speech do you think was the most powerful, and why?
