



## People's Promise

**Directions:** Read the passage below carefully. Pay attention to the quotation in **bold**. Answer the guiding questions about what the line means, why it was written, and how it connects to history. Write your answers in complete sentences, using evidence from the text.

### Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863, adapted excerpt)

In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of a cemetery for soldiers who died in a decisive Civil War battle. His speech was remarkably brief, lasting only a few minutes, yet it became one of the most famous in American history. Lincoln reminded the audience that the nation had been founded on the principle of liberty and equality. He honored the soldiers who had given their lives so that the nation might survive. In doing so, he challenged the living to continue their work. The line **"government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"** captured the central meaning of the war and America's democratic ideals. Though short, the address has been remembered for its powerful words and lasting influence.

### Guiding Questions

1. What does the quotation **"government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"** mean in your own words?
2. Why might Lincoln have chosen to end his speech with this line?
3. How does this line reflect the larger goals of the Civil War?
4. Why is this quotation still significant in modern times?