

Words at Gettysburg

Compare a president's speech with a later historical account.

L6-8RHSS9 "Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases spoken by Lincoln, circle two details added by the textbook, and write P beside paragraph 1 and S beside paragraph 2 to show what each source contributes.

A Speech and Its Meaning

- ① Source A: On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle there had taken place four months earlier and caused enormous losses. In his short speech, Lincoln said that the nation was "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." He asked listeners to ensure that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Lincoln delivered these words at the event.
- ② Source B: A history textbook published in 2018 explains that Lincoln did not spend much time describing military actions at Gettysburg. Instead, it connected the Civil War to the Declaration of Independence and its claim of equality. The book states that this connection gave the war a larger purpose: protecting self-government. It also notes that newspapers printed the address, helping Lincoln's ideas reach people who had not attended the cemetery dedication. Its author studied events and documents from the Civil War period.
- ③ The address lasted only a few minutes. At the same ceremony, speaker Edward Everett delivered a much longer speech about the battle. Lincoln's address was first printed in newspapers and later copied in books and classrooms. The exact wording survives in several handwritten copies, with small differences among them. Historians study the speech along with newspaper reports, letters, and records from the cemetery dedication. These materials help historians place Lincoln's brief remarks within the wider story of the Civil War and examine how people encountered his words.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which source is primary, and which source is secondary? Use a detail about each source's date or author to support your answer.

2 How does Source B help explain Lincoln's words in Source A about equality?

3 What can Source A tell a historian more directly than Source B can? Explain why.

4 Name one detail that Source B adds that does not appear in Lincoln's quoted words. Why is that detail useful?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences advising a historian how to use both sources to study the meaning and impact of the Gettysburg Address. Include one detail from each source, one strength of a source, and one limitation of a source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases spoken by Lincoln, circle two details added by the textbook, and write P beside paragraph 1 and S beside paragraph 2 to show what each source contributes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is primary, and which source is secondary? Use a detail about each source's date or author to support your answer.	Source A is primary because Lincoln delivered it in 1863 at the cemetery dedication. Source B is secondary because it is a textbook published in 2018 by an author who studied earlier events and documents.
2	How does Source B help explain Lincoln's words in Source A about equality?	Source B explains that Lincoln connected the Civil War to the Declaration of Independence and its claim of equality. It says this gave the war the larger purpose of protecting self-government.
3	What can Source A tell a historian more directly than Source B can? Explain why.	Source A gives Lincoln's own words and shows the message he chose to deliver at the dedication. Source B summarizes and interprets his ideas later.
4	Name one detail that Source B adds that does not appear in Lincoln's quoted words. Why is that detail useful?	Source B says that newspapers printed the address and helped Lincoln's ideas reach people who did not attend. This is useful because it explains how the speech reached a wider audience.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A historian should use Lincoln's speech to study the message he wanted to give at the cemetery dedication. Its words show that he linked the nation to liberty and equality. The history textbook explains that he connected the war to the Declaration of Independence and self-government. Because the textbook was written later, the historian should check Lincoln's speech when studying his exact message.

Accept equivalent explanations that distinguish Lincoln's firsthand speech from the later textbook interpretation. For the open response, accept accurate evidence from both sources and a reasonable strength and limitation.