

# Gettysburg Address Lesson Plan

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S GREATEST SPEECH

*BY CHUCK TEAGUE (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)*



**Grades:** 4-12

**Approximate Length of Time:** Approximately two 45 minute class periods

### **Goals:**

Students will evaluate the role of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in the context of its place and time in history.

Students will examine how The Gettysburg Address is relevant in today's society.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to list at least two events that led up to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.
2. Students will be able to present an argument as to why Lincoln gave The Gettysburg Address.
3. Students will be able to summarize portions of the Gettysburg Address in their own words or present an overall summary of the document.
4. Students will be able to discuss why they believe the Gettysburg Address is still relevant in today's society.

## **Materials:**

The Great Task Video

The Gettysburg Address

Outline for the Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 1 and 2

Outline for the Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 3 and 4

Timeline to the Address

The Gettysburg Address Power Point Presentation Parts 1 and 2

The Gettysburg Address Power Point Presentation Parts 3 and 4

“Your Version” Worksheet

CNN.com

## **Vocabulary:**

Conceive – to form a notion or idea

Proposition – a suggestion that something be done or thought about

Engaged – to be occupied with a task

Endure – to continue to exist or last

Consecrate – to make or declare sacred; set apart or dedicate

Hallow – to honor as holy or sacred

Detract – to draw away or divert attention

Devotion – dedication, or commitment to a cause

Vain – without real significance or value

Perish – to pass away or disappear

## **Anticipatory Set/Hook:**

Play The Great Task video for your students, allowing them the opportunity to hear The Gettysburg Address.

Engage students in a discussion about what they just heard. Ask them:

- If they had ever heard this before
- Why do they think the director had the actors repeat certain lines
- Which parts stuck out or struck them the most
- When do they think this speech was originally given
- For what reason do they think this was given

## **Procedure:**

Day 1:

Hand out a copy of the Timeline to the Address to each student.

Hand out a copy of Outline for the Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 1 and 2.

Have students use the Outline to follow along as you present The Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 1 and 2.

During the timeline portion, have students fill out their own timelines.

Day 2:

Hand out a copy of the Gettysburg Address to each student.

Hand out a copy of Outline for the Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 3 and 4.

Have students use the Outline to follow along as you present The Gettysburg Address Power Point Parts 3 and 4.

During the discussion of the language used in the Address have students highlight important words or phrases in their copy of The Gettysburg Address.

Hand out a copy of the “Your Version” worksheet to each student.

Have students complete their own version of the Gettysburg Address or have them write a summary of the Address.

## **Closure:**

Hold a discussion using the questions: Why do you think the address is still relevant today?

## **Assessment:**

Gather the Timeline and “Your Version” worksheets. These will be used to support the first two objectives.

Students will complete an essay addressing the question:

Why is The Gettysburg Address still relevant today?

Provide specific examples from current events

o articles can be taken from today’s newspaper

o or go to [cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

Use at least one quote from The Gettysburg Address.

## **Modification Ideas:**

Have students revisit The Gettysburg Address Power Point on their own or for homework from their home computer before writing their final assessment question.

Allow students to work in pairs to answer the final assessment question.

Have students visit The Gettysburg Address Online Exhibit at the Library of Congress.