

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era and its importance as a major turning point in American history by b) analyzing the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the principles outlined in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.



Gettysburg Address

Lincoln described the Civil War as a struggle to preserve a nation that was dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal” and that was ruled by a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Lincoln believed America was “one nation,” not a collection of sovereign states. Southerners believed that states had freely joined the union and could freely leave.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address said the the United States was one nation, not a federation of independent states. That was what the Civil War was about for Lincoln: to preserve the Union as a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Lincoln believed the Civil War was fought to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and was a “Second American Revolution.” He described a different vision for the United States from the one that had prevailed from the beginning of the Republic to the Civil War.

Emancipation Proclamation

Freed those slaves located in “rebellng” states (seceded Southern states).

Made the destruction of slavery a Northern war aim.

Discouraged any interference of foreign governments.