The Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation changed the main goal of the war, from keeping the U.S. united to ending slavery.

On July 1, 2 and 3, 1863, the Union army of the North and the Confederate army of the South fought the bloodiest battle of the Civil War at Gettysburg, Pa. In those three days, there were more than 50,000 casualties (KA-zhul-tees), or men killed, wounded, captured or missing.

The battle was a turning point in the war. It marked the beginning of the Union victory.

But what people may remember most about Gettysburg is a two-minute speech by President Abraham Lincoln. He delivered his now-famous Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, at the dedication of the battlefield cemetery. It still inspires people today.

In honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, The Mini Page talked with an expert from Gettysburg National Military Park to learn more about the world-changing events that took place there 150 years ago.

This art from about 1867 shows Union troops advancing from the right in the battle of Gettysburg. Although the war went on for about two more years after Gettysburg, this battle changed the war. Until then, the South had won most of the battles. But after Gettysburg and another Union victory on July 4, the Confederacy no longer seemed unbeatable. The Union gained hope.

Bringing the battle north

Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, had invaded the North only one other time. Up to that time, most of the battles had been fought in the South. As a result, the South was nearly destroyed.

Lee invaded the North partly to force people there to see how horrible the war was. There was a growing peace movement in the North. Many wanted to let the South leave the United States so the war would end.

Lee wanted to give that movement a push. By bringing the war to the North, he hoped to make people even more eager to end it.

The town

Lee chose Gettysburg as the battleground partly because the train came through there and 12 different roads met there. He needed to be able to move equipment, men and horses. He also needed a place with open fields where battles could take place.

Gettysburg was a town of about 2,400 people. By the end of the battle, every field and garden had become a graveyard. Wounded soldiers lay in all the public buildings and churches and in many people's homes.
**Battle Casualties**

**The Gettysburg battle**

The Confederacy won the first day of fighting. But then the Union Army of the Potomac re-formed, and the Union gained the high ground. This gave them the advantage. No one won on the second day of fighting.

On the third day, the Confederates forced the Union army back until the troops, under Gen. George Gordon Meade, turned the tables and won the battle.

On July 4, Lee led his troops in retreat. They had to travel slowly; they were carrying so many wounded soldiers that the line of ambulance wagons stretched for 17 miles.

Out of about 170,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who fought in the battle, there were about 23,000 Union casualties. This was more than one-quarter of all the Army of the Potomac’s troops. There were about 28,000 Confederate casualties, more than one-third of Lee’s army.

**Treating the wounded**

After the battle, the Union Army Medical Corps (kor) stayed to treat the wounded of both sides. They moved the wounded from houses and public buildings to hospitals set up in barns or tents. The medical corps eventually formed one general hospital, where patients were treated in tents outside Gettysburg.

As soon as they were able to travel, wounded soldiers were sent by train to their homes or to regular hospitals.

**Ready Resources**

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week’s topics.

**On the Web:**
- nps.gov/gett/index.htm
- myloc.gov/Multimedia/Gettysburg.aspx
- history.com/topics/gettysburg-address

**At the library:**
- “Gettysburg: The Graphic History of America’s Most Famous Battle and the Turning Point of the Civil War” by Wayne Vansant
- “The True Story Behind Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address” by Jennifer Armstrong

**Gettysburg**

Words that remind us of the Gettysburg Address are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: ADDRESS, ARMY, CIVIL, CONFEDERACY, CORPS, DEDICATION, FREEDOM, GETTYSBURG, LEE, LINCOLN, NORTH, PHOTOGRAPHY, RETREAT, SLAVERY, SOUTH, SPEECH, TENT, UNION, WAR, WON.

**Try ‘n’ Find**

LINCOLN’S WORDS STILL INSPIRE US!

.Keyword: nps.gov/gett/index.htm
Mini Spy . . .

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the Gettysburg battlefield. See if you can find:
- feather
- teacup
- umbrella
- doughnut
- dragon
- question mark
- number 3
- bell
- fish
- snake
- sock
- teapot
- sea horse
- letter A
- word MINI
- heart
- hamburger
- letter L
- ice cream cone

Rookie Cookie’s Recipe
Easy Mexican Chicken Casserole

You’ll need:
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 1/2 cups cooked chicken
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can chicken soup
- 1 (10-ounce) can tomatoes with green chilies
- 1 (15-ounce) can pinto beans
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 1/2 cups Monterey Jack grated cheese
- 1 cup crushed spicy chips

What to do:
1. Heat olive oil and cook bell pepper and onion until translucent.
2. Combine vegetables, chicken, soup, tomatoes, beans, seasoning, milk and 1 cup of cheese in a large bowl.
3. Coat a 7-by-11-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
4. Pour chicken mixture in baking dish; cover with aluminum foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.
5. Uncover; sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup of cheese and crushed chips.
6. Continue baking, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Serve over hot rice.

Meet David Tobocman

David Tobocman is a singer and songwriter whose latest CD is “Escalator.” He also composes music for movies and TV shows, including the animated Nickelodeon TV show “Robot and Monster.”

He began creating albums for kids after his two daughters were born. His daughters sing on his albums, and his oldest daughter co-writes some of the songs.

David began taking piano lessons when he was 8 years old. He learned trombone with his junior high band and taught himself to play guitar when he was 12. He also plays the mandolin, banjo, ukulele and bass. He has a college degree in jazz studies.

He performs free concerts for charities and at children’s hospitals. David grew up in Detroit and now lives in Los Angeles.

Barry: What happens when you cross a boomerang with a gift you don’t like?
Barbara: You get a gift that returns itself!
Buddy: What do you call a boomerang that doesn’t come back when you throw it?
Bobby: A stick!

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Barry: What happens when you cross a boomerang with a gift you don’t like?
Barbara: You get a gift that returns itself!
Buster: What piece of jewelry will always be returned to you?
Betty: A boomering!

Meet Supersport: Wes Welker

Given a choice, some defensive backs might rather taming a bucking bronco than spend an afternoon chasing Denver Broncos receiver Wes Welker.

After several sterling seasons at New England, he looks like the same old pass-catching Welker on a new team.

In nine years with the Patriots, he made All-Pro four times and grabbed more than 100 passes in five different seasons, an NFL record.

Welker was overlooked in the NFL draft despite setting records at Texas Tech. But people in the pros now look up to the 5-9 star.

A receiver with a giving spirit, No. 83 has the Wes Welker Foundation that gives youth a chance to play football in his hometown. Welker was given a chance 10 years ago in the NFL and made the most of his opportunity.
Honoring the dead
The Gettysburg battlefield cemetery, named the Soldiers’ National Cemetery, was dedicated, or officially opened, on Nov. 19, 1863.

A famous orator (OR-uh-tor), or speaker, Edward Everett, was the main speaker at the dedication. He spoke for two hours. When he was done, Abraham Lincoln spoke for about two minutes. His words changed history.

Lincoln’s decision
President Lincoln knew that the peace movement was growing. The cemetery dedication was his chance to get his message to the country. He believed the war had to continue until slavery ended.

He had just lost one son and had another son sick at home. It was a day’s travel from Washington, D.C., to Gettysburg. The fact that Lincoln still came shows how important he thought his message was.

Lincoln Fights for Freedom

The past and the future

Every part of Lincoln’s speech was filled with meaning.

The speech begins, “Four score and seven years ago…” A score is 20 years. Lincoln was really saying, “Eighty-seven years ago, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, a new nation was born.”

He believed America began with the Declaration of Independence, not with the Constitution. This was important because many slave-owners claimed that the Constitution did not outlaw slavery.

But Lincoln argued that the Declaration was against slavery. He said the founders of America wanted America to be “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Lincoln said that the Civil War was “testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.” He meant that the war was testing whether the bold, new idea that all men were created equal could last.

Lincoln’s words at the Gettysburg cemetery dedication still inspire people. Speeches after 9/11 referred to the Gettysburg Address. People from other countries say it helps them understand what it means to be an American.

Look through your newspaper for stories about people working for peace.

Next week, The Mini Page is about the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination.

The Mini Page thanks Barbara Sanders, education specialist, Gettysburg National Military Park, for help with this issue.

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