

Equality



In his Gettysburg Address, given in 1863 to honor Americans who had died in the Civil War, Lincoln said:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain: that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., made his famous speech, now known as "I have a Dream," on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. He said:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed; 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'

...When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"



Read the passages from these speeches again and answer the questions.

1. What were the hopes of both men? _____

2. The two speeches were given 100 years apart. What does that mean to you?

3. Do you think the hopes of these two men have come true? Why or why not?
