Question -
What are the events that lead up to Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address?

Introduction -
Begin lesson by pulling up photograph of crowd at Lincoln’s Gettysburg address for students to view. Have students brainstorm when the photograph was taken based on what they see in the picture.

Procedure -
• After the students brainstorm, write “Gettysburg Address” on the board.
• Ask the students what they know about the Gettysburg Address.
• As the students give answers, write them on the board.
• Next, ask the students what questions they have about the “Gettysburg Address.” Give the students suggestions as to questions about what lead up to the Gettysburg Address.
• Place students into small groups and pass out a copy of the words to the Gettysburg Address to each student.
• Have each student follow along while listening to a recording of the Gettysburg Address being read.
• After students have finished listening, have each group pick a question off of the board and have the groups research to answer their question. Students must use one of the primary sources in their presentation.
• Have photographs of the Gettysburg Address, Invitations to the Address, and photographs of the site available to the students.
• Questions can be, but are not limited to: “How did people know to come to Gettysburg to hear the speech?” “ Why did Lincoln choose the words he did for his speech?” etc.
• After gathering their information, students will write up a paragraph answering their question.
• The students will then present their findings to the other groups.

Extension Activity -
Students will write a journal entry describing what it would be like if they were present during Lincoln’s Address.

Stripling Model of Inquiry-
Connect, wonder, investigate, construct, express, reflect.
Resources -


