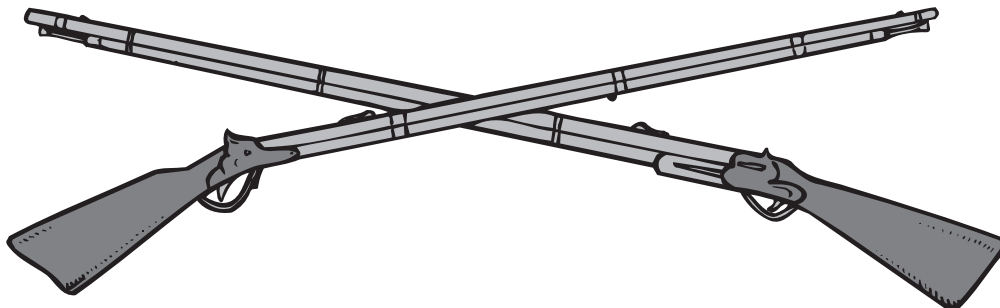


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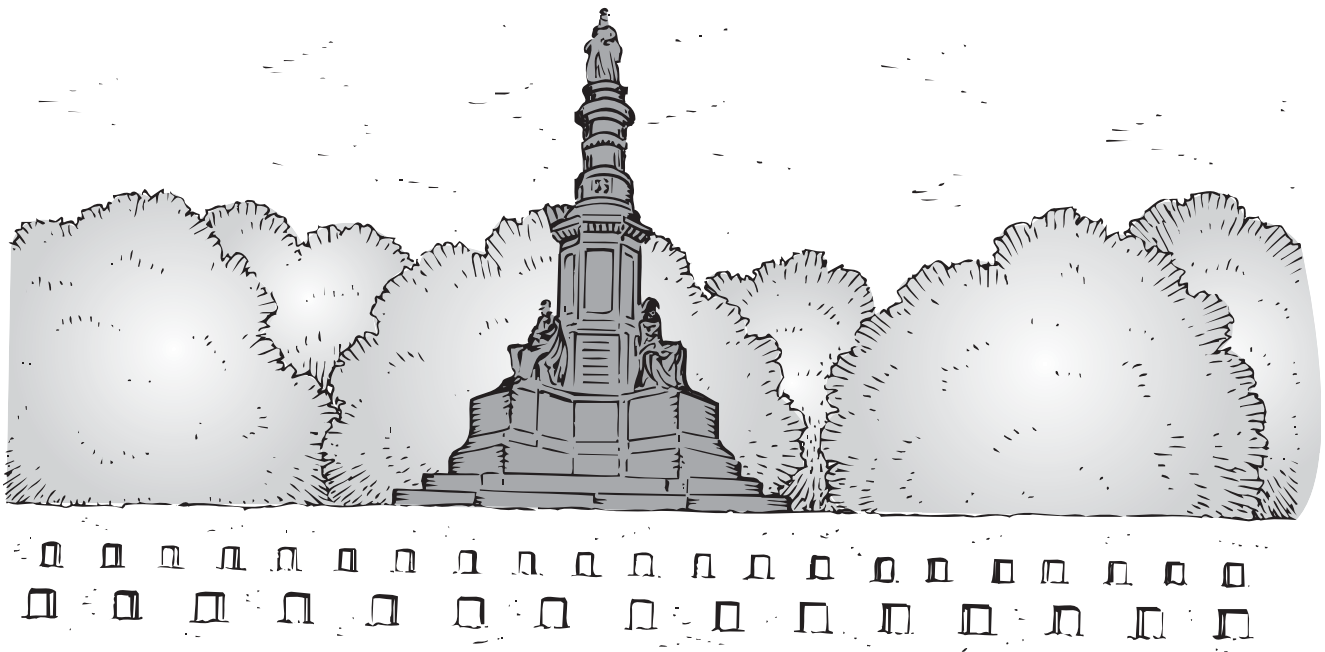
# Gettysburg National Cemetery<sup>1</sup>

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the bodies of the dead had to be buried quickly because of the summer heat. Later, wind and rain began to uncover the shallow graves, and something more permanent had to be done. Through the support of Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin, the state provided money to buy land on the battlefield site and rebury the Union soldiers. Gettysburg National Cemetery is on the center of the former Union line on Cemetery Hill.

William Saunders, who was a landscape architect, designed the cemetery. The Soldier's National Monument stands in the center of the cemetery with a circle of graves around it. While the cemetery was under the administration of the U.S. War Department, that agency planted trees, created paved walkways and placed tables with verses from Theodore O'Hara's poem "The Bivouac of the Dead" around the area.

Only Union soldiers were buried at Gettysburg; the Southern dead were returned to the South in the 1870s. As time went on, soldiers from all of the United States' major wars were buried in the cemetery away from the original graves from the Battle of Gettysburg. Because of space limitations, the park is now closed to any further burials.

Officials dedicated Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. Nearly ten thousand people listened to Edward Everett and Abraham Lincoln speak at the ceremony. Everett spoke for about two hours, while Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" lasted only a few minutes; yet Lincoln's words became one of the United States' most famous orations.



<sup>1</sup>Sources: "Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park," [www.nps.gov/gett/gncem.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gett/gncem.htm)  
"Gettysburg National Cemetery (National Park Service)," [www.nps.gov/getc/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/getc/index.htm)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Gettysburg National Cemetery Questions

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1. Where on the battlefield is the National Cemetery located? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What person or what group provided money to create the cemetery? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe Saunders' design for the cemetery. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. a. What became of the bodies of the Confederate soldiers who were buried at Gettysburg immediately after the battle? b. In your opinion, was this a fair or unfair decision of what to do with the Confederate dead? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Who were the two speakers at the dedication of the cemetery? b. Whose speech is the more famous of the two given that day? \_\_\_\_\_



# Gettysburg National Military Park<sup>1</sup>

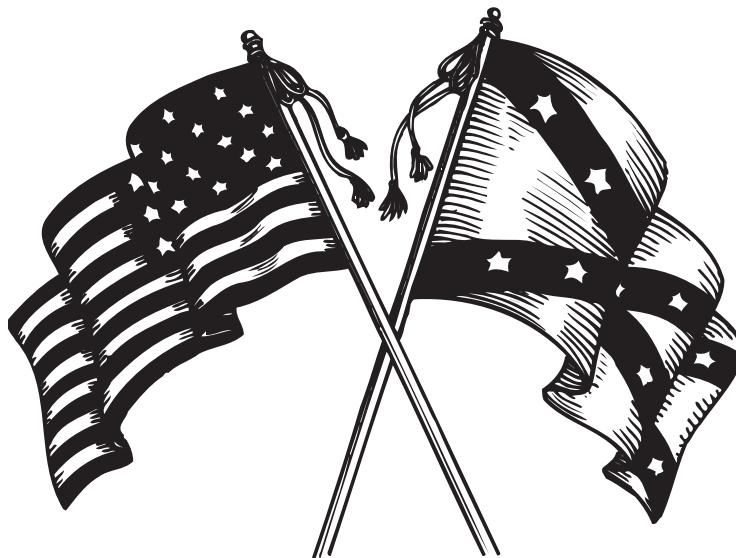
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The Gettysburg National Military Park is located at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg, about 50 miles northwest of Baltimore, Maryland. Union forces under General George G. Meade fought Confederate troops led by General Robert E. Lee for three days from July 1-3, 1863. This was the largest battle of the Civil War and the turning point of that conflict. After Gettysburg, the Confederates were continually on the defensive until Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House in April 1865.

Efforts had been made locally by the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association to preserve the battlefield after the Civil War, but it took 30 years for the national government to take over the care of the site. It was not until 1895 that Congress and the President established the Gettysburg National Military Park. The work of the United States War Department to improve the memorial park was completed by 1913 in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.

Today, the park spans almost six thousand acres of land. Areas around the park are privately owned, but the National Park Service continues to try to buy land that was part of the original battle site. This agency is also trying to return the battlefield to the way it was in 1863 to preserve its historical accuracy. About 1.8 million people visit the Military Park each year. The Park Service also has a virtual tour of the battlefield on its web site. In addition, the Park Service is planning to build a \$95,000,000 Museum and Visitor Center to house its large collection of artifacts and documents about the Battle of Gettysburg and to better accommodate visitors.



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<sup>1</sup>Sources: "Gettysburg National Military Park Home Page," [www.nps.gov/gett/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gett/home.htm)

"The New Museum and Visitor Center Plan," [www.nps.gov/gett/gettprojects/museum/mus-home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gett/gettprojects/museum/mus-home.htm)