



Time Terms

Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is one of the most famous speeches in American history. Its first line, "Four score and seven years ago...." is as well-known as "We the people..." Most Americans, however, haven't a clue of the meaning of "score." A score is 20 years. Four score and seven years ago is equal to 87 years, the number of years between Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the issuance of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Below are some additional time terms that are rarely used.

Use the chart below to answer the following questions about "modified" versions of the Gettysburg Address. The reference date is November 19, 1863.

Score = 20 Years

Fortnight = 14 days

Sesquicentennial = 150 years (usually an anniversary, but we'll bend the rules a little bit)

52 fortnights and 223 days ago, the Civil war began

What date? _____

5 score and three days from now, United States President John F. Kennedy will be assassinated.

What date? _____

A sesquicentennial, two years and a fortnight from now, this document will be published.

What date? _____

4 sesquicentennials, two score, eight years, eleven fortnights, and three days ago, the Magna Carta was accepted

What date? _____

ANSWERS

52 fortnights and 223 days ago, the Civil war began

What date? April 14, 1861

5 score and three days from now, United States President John F. Kennedy will be assassinated.

What date? November 22, 1863

A sesquicentennial, two years and a fortnight from now, this document will be published.

What date? December 3, 2015

4 sesquicentennials, two score, eight years, eleven fortnights, and three days ago, the Magna Carta was accepted What date? June 15, 1215