



Presidential Inaugurations: 2021 Inauguration

Purpose: Beginning with the inauguration of Washington in 1790, Presidential inaugurations have reflected the style and times of our elected leaders. Students will examine the inaugurations of past presidents in an effort to determine how those ceremonies reflected their values. Students will also investigate the impact of citizen participation in the inauguration process from following Washington with laurel leaves to watching President Clinton's inauguration on the internet. Students will also examine how current political events impact the events of the inauguration especially in 2021.

Objectives:

1. *Students will identify the essential elements of the *inauguration* ceremony in order to determine the extent to which a President-elect can personalize his induction into office.
2. Students will analyze quotes from inauguration speeches in order to establish the importance of a political speech in setting the tone for a term of office.
3. *Students will examine various inaugural celebrations in order to determine the extent to which the celebrations reflect the style and values of the President.
4. Students will evaluate inauguration preparations in order to make predictions about the 2021 Presidential inauguration.

*- indicates an activity appropriate for middle level students.

Key Words:

20th Amendment
lame duck

affirm
oath of office

inauguration

Materials:

1. Overhead with copy of *George Washington: The First Inauguration*
2. Article, *From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition*. Weaver, Warren. *The New York Times*, 1989. (Versions A and *B)
3. Additional Resources, *Inauguration Ceremonies*
4. Student handout, *Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage*
5. Student resource, *President Trump's 2016 Inauguration Speech*
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/the-inaugural-address/>
6. Graphic organizer, *Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance*
7. Student handout: *Presidential Inaugurations: Making a Statement* (Forms A and *B)
8. Student handout: *Presidential Bingo*

Procedure:

1. Warm-up: Place the following on the board: What would you wear if you going to be sworn in as the next president of the United States? Why? Share student responses but most would probably say they would wear something fancy or special. Ask students to respond to the fact that the Federalists wanted George Washington to wear a gold suit to his inauguration. They also wanted him to wear Laurel leaves in his hair and arrive at the ceremony riding white horses. Instead, Washington arrived in a brown suit made of “homespun clothe” with brass buttons riding a cream colored horse.
 - What image were the Federalists trying to project by asking Washington to wear a gold suit and arrive on a white horse?
 - *What type of person would wear a suit of gold and ride a white horse?
 - *Why do you think Washington chose to wear an American made suit?
 - Why do you think Washington made the choices he did regarding his attire for the inauguration? What was he trying to say about his term as President?
2. *Inform students that Washington set the precedent for future inaugurations with his 1790 celebration. Project the transparency, ***George Washington: The First Inauguration*** and have the students discuss the importance of decisions Washington made regarding the inauguration ceremony.
 - Washington wanted his inauguration out-of-doors so that more people could view the proceedings.
 - Washington added, “So help me God” to the official **Oath of Office** found in Article II, Section I of the Constitution.
 - Washington kissed the Bible.
 - He used fireworks to celebrate his inauguration.
 - He had an inaugural ball in May of 1790 to celebrate his inauguration.
3. * Have the students read, ***From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition.*** (Weaver, Warren. *The New York Times*, 1989.) Two versions are provided to accommodate for varying reading levels. Students should read the article and answer the questions included with the reading. Additional resources are provided to supplement this part of the lesson such as inaugural songs, poems, illustrations and photographs.
4. As a transition, ask students to comment on the following question:
William J. Clinton was the first President to have his inauguration ceremony broadcast over the internet.
 - How has technology increased the abilities of Americans to participate in the inaugural process? Why is that so important in 2020? (Participation will be limited because of COVID so technology will allow citizens to participate)
 - How do you plan to participate in the inaugural activities? By internet? Via the cell phone? Television? Social Media?
 - To what extent do you think the inaugural ceremony will reflect the style and values of the Biden administration? How will you know?

- This is obviously a special event for Americans but how important do you think it is for observers from across the world to be able to view and participate in the inauguration of the U.S. President? Why?
 - The last week has been especially tumultuous (upsetting) for Americans. Do you think the inauguration will be a good thing for the nation? Why or why not? Do you think the ceremony should have been moved inside?
5. Inaugural addresses are an important addition to the ceremony. It provides the president with an opportunity to introduce his plans for the next four years. Discuss the importance of inaugural speeches by distributing, ***Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage***. Students should evaluate the impact of inaugural addresses and their importance in setting the tone for the President's term of office.
 6. For advanced students, have them read a copy of student resource, *President Trump's 2017 Inauguration Speech*. Have them identify the key themes of the 2017 speech. Have them complete the Venn Diagram with predictions about what might be included in the 2021 speech. Other students may use the ***Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage*** to help them to determine the importance or lack of importance of the inaugural address.
 7. * Using the graphic organizer, ***Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance*** direct the students to research the inaugurations of Presidents throughout history. The following resources can help students in their investigation of inaugurations:
 - Library of Congress- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html>
 - Modern Inaugurations/ Addresses, etc.- www.presidentsusa.net/inauguration.html
 - History Matters- <http://historymatters.gmu.edu>
 - National Archives- www.archives.gov
 - **New York Times:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/18/us/politics/presidential-inauguration-history-facts.html>
 - **White House History-** <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/presidential-inaugurations>
 8. In order to make predictions about the message of the upcoming inauguration direct students to research the inauguration website, <http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/>. The theme for the inauguration is “America United.” Why do you think the committee picked this theme? Do you agree with the choice? Why or why not?
 9. Ask the students to assess the extent to which a Presidential inauguration can predict the style and values of the President's tenure. Pass out the student resource, ***Presidential Inaugurations: Making a Statement***. Students are asked to reflect on their investigation of Presidential inaugurations throughout history and comment on the upcoming inauguration to determine what impact, if any, the choice of inaugural activities will have on the style of the Biden administration.

10. EXTENSION ACTIVITY: *Conduct a symposium of past Presidents. Invite the students to assume the role of the President that he/she researched. The Presidents will be meeting to discuss the importance of inaugural ceremonies on the outcomes of their terms. Students could come in costume and should be prepared to answer questions about their inaugurations. Activities for the symposium:

- **Ice Breaker-** Pass out the student resource, *Inauguration Bingo*. Students should circulate throughout the room interviewing each other and filling in one piece of information about the President's inauguration along with the President's name. Place the Presidents' names in a bowl and draw them out. When a student gets "Bingo" have them read the names and facts from their inaugurations.
- **Forum-** Divide students into groups. Have them discuss the elements of inauguration ceremonies and their importance.

- The inaugural address
- The inaugural parade
- The inaugural ball(s)
- Inaugural poems/songs

Which elements are most important? Why?

Which elements are least important? Why?

How has technology impacted the inaugural events?

Which Presidents spent the most amount of time and money on their inaugurations? The least?

What does the inauguration suggest about their presidencies?

- To wrap up the Past Presidents symposium serve lemonade (in place of wine) and ice cream. This is what Andrew Jackson served at his 1830 inauguration to the thousands of citizens who visited the White House. Tell the students that the events got so rowdy that furniture was taken out onto the lawn and that the President had to escape through a back door.

George Washington: First Presidential Inauguration

"My station is new; and, if I may use the expression, I walk on untrodden ground."

--George Washington in a letter, January 9, 1790



What is the importance of the decisions Washington made regarding his 1790 inauguration?

- The Federalists wanted Washington to arrive at his inauguration riding white horses, wearing a gold suit and a crown of Laurels. Instead, Washington wore a brown suit made of homespun cloth with brass buttons.
- Washington was escorted from Federal Hall to the President's House in New York (then the capital) by troops he had commanded in the Revolution. This was the first inaugural parade.
- It was Washington's decision to kiss the Bible during his inauguration. It is not required by the Constitution.
- His inauguration was held out-of-doors so that more people could view the proceedings.



Version A

www.washingtonpost.com

January 21, 1989

From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 - Of the 50 formal inaugural ceremonies that have installed American Presidents from **George Washington** to **Ronald Reagan**, only a handful remain memorable. Washington's is remembered because it was the first, **Andrew Jackson's** because his White House reception got out of hand, **William Henry Harrison's** because he caught cold and soon died, and **Jimmy Carter's** because he walked back to the White House at the head of his own inaugural parade. The addresses of **Abraham Lincoln**, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and **John F. Kennedy** are remembered for their **eloquence**. But historians tell us that many other inaugurations had their own distinctions. More and more events were added to the basic Presidential oath-taking; thousands and ultimately millions of Americans were able to witness or take part in the historic change of national command. What follows is an informal account of this developing custom.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." The **oath of office** that **Barack Obama (edit)** will take is precisely the same 35 words that **George Washington** recited nearly 200 years ago in Federal Hall in New York, one of the few features of the celebration that have not changed over the years. Every President except **John Quincy Adams** has put his hand on the Bible, open to a page of his choice. Adams used a volume of constitutional law given him by Chief Justice John Marshall. From the fourth inauguration on, the oath was administered by the Chief Justice of the United States, except for the half-dozen Presidents who succeeded by death and generally chose the handiest judge for their emergency ceremonies. Marshall holds the record of nine formal inaugural ceremonies (1801-33), followed by Roger B. Taney with seven (1837-61) and Melville Fuller with six (1889-1909). **Franklin Pierce** in 1853 was the only President in history who for religious reasons took the option to "**affirm**," rather than "swear," that he would to uphold the Constitution. Pierce's Vice President, William Rufus King, was in Cuba, trying to recover from an illness; under a special act of Congress, he took the oath in Havana. He died six weeks later.

William Henry Harrison's **Inaugural Address** was the longest, 8,500 words and nearly two hours, and had the worst consequences. The weather was cold and stormy, and the cold Harrison caught turned to pneumonia and pleurisy. He died a month later. The shortest inaugural speech was Washington's second, only 135 words long. Franklin Roosevelt's fourth inaugural speech, in 1945, lasted only six minutes. Because of his failing health, he delivered it to a small audience from the South Portico of the White House.

Inaugural costume, while tending to the formal, has varied over the years. A contemporary account reported that Washington wore "a complete suit of Homespun Clothes; the cloth was of a fine fabric and as handsomely finished as any European superfine cloth." The first five Presidents wore knickers to their ceremonies, with John Quincy Adams the first to move into trousers. In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt, an apostle of the strenuous life, was the first to deliver his Inaugural Address

bareheaded. Pearl-gray top hats, matching cutaway coats and darker gray striped trousers - traditional daytime formal wear - were the approved inaugural costume for perhaps a century; Mr. **Carter** rejected this elegance for a business suit in 1977, but Mr. Reagan reinstated the cutaway in 1981. In 1985, frigid weather drove Mr. Reagan into the Capitol for a semiprivate oath-taking and, sartorially, into a business suit. Now Mr. Obama (edit) is returning to the Capitol, weather permitting, but retaining the business suit.

Washington took his Presidential oath in New York in 1789 and 1793 and John Adams in Philadelphia four years later, but the rest of the formal inaugural ceremonies have taken place in Washington. (The eight Vice Presidents suddenly elevated by death have been sworn in wherever they happened to be at the time; Gerald R. Ford, with a day's notice of Richard M. Nixon's resignation, took his oath in the East Room of the White House.) Eight inaugurations have been held inside the Capitol, often because of bad weather, but the great majority,³⁶ have taken place on the **East Portico**, usually on a platform overlooking Capitol Park. The first outdoor inauguration, in 1817, was the product of a typical Congressional dispute. The Senate and House could not agree on a distribution of seats for the event indoors, so President James Monroe was sworn in on a platform outside the old brick Capitol, on the site of the present Supreme Court. In 1981, President-elect **Reagan** moved the ceremony from the East to the West Front of the Capitol, for theatrically sound reasons. Capitol Hill falls off to the west, and the ceremony on the steps there is visible to many thousands more spectators than can be accommodated at the East Front.

The inauguration of Mr. Obama is the 19th to be held on Jan. 20, which has been the standard date since Franklin Roosevelt began his second term in 1937. From 1797 until then, the date had been March 4, but the 20th Amendment to the Constitution was adopted in 1933 to shorten the "**lame duck**" tenancy of the outgoing President. When March 4 fell on a Sunday, three Presidents were sworn in on March 5. (Dwight D. Eisenhower's second inauguration was held on Jan. 20, 1957, even though it was a Sunday; the ceremony was small.) While the country was still getting organized, George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

The inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House, now a firm tradition, evolved slowly. When Washington took the first oath in New York, he was escorted afterward from Federal Hall to the President's House by troops he had commanded during the Revolution, accompanied by Senators and Representatives. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson had a military and civilian escort as he walked the block from his boardinghouse to the ceremony at the temporary Capitol building, then as now on Capitol Hill. For his second inauguration four years later, he was the first to ride up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol, establishing the ceremonial route that incoming Presidents now take with their predecessors.

Historical accounts are spotty, but the first full-fledged inaugural parade appears to have followed Jackson back to the White House in 1829. By the time of Zachary Taylor in 1849, the parade took an hour to pass a given point. Lincoln's first inaugural parade, in 1861, included floats; one of them carried 34 girls representing the existing states, and it paused long enough at the White House for the new President to kiss each of them. The 1865 Lincoln parade was the first to include blacks, both civilian organizations and a military battalion. Ulysses S. Grant's 1869 parade, the largest to that time, included eight military divisions; he watched it from a reviewing stand. Grover



Cleveland's second parade, in 1893, lasted six hours despite an inch of wet snow. William Howard Taft's parade in 1909 was almost canceled by a blizzard and ice storm, but Mrs. Taft rode to the White House with her husband. The first Eisenhower inaugural parade in 1953 was the most martial; 22,000 of the 27,000 marchers were military. Kennedy's 1961 parade had 32,000 people and a PT boat in the line of march.

On May 7, 1789, a week after Washington took the first Presidential oath, the inaugural ball was born in New York City, with the new President, Vice President John Adams and members of Congress in attendance. Martha Washington, who had not yet moved to the temporary capital in New York, was absent, but the first inaugural souvenir was on sale: a lady's fan with a medallion profile of the President. Some historical accounts refer to this affair as "unofficial" and say the first official ball did not take place until 1809, at Long's Hotel, a block from the Capitol, with James and Dolley Madison as its stars and 400 tickets going for \$4 each. Inauguration tourists, then as now, clamored for ball tickets. In 1837 Martin Van Buren staged two balls but put in an appearance only at the higher-priced one. Harrison expanded this to four in 1841, and managed to attend all of them despite his cold. In 1857 James Buchanan restored the single inaugural ball, but he had to construct a special \$15,000 building on Judiciary Square to accommodate 6,000 people for dining and dancing. The coldest inaugural ball was Grant's second, in 1873, when the outdoor temperature was 4 degrees. The dancers kept their coats on and the champagne froze. Rutherford B. Hayes, who was elected in 1876 even though he received fewer popular votes than Samuel J. Tilden, was accordingly a little insecure. He did not hold a ball or a public inaugural ceremony but took the oath at a private ceremony in the White House, the first President to do so. James A. Garfield's inaugural ball, four years later, was held in Smithsonian Hall, now the Arts and Industries Building, and was the first to feature an electric light. Tickets were \$5; for another dollar, celebrants could have a supper that included pickled oysters, chicken salad, roast turkey, ham and beef, beef tongues, ice cream and cakes. Woodrow Wilson did not hold a ball in 1913 because he found it inappropriate to the solemn occasion. Franklin Roosevelt held no ball in 1937, 1941 and 1945 in recognition of the Depression and World War II. Eisenhower expanded to two inaugural balls in 1953, and that blew the lid off: Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson each held five. In 1981 Mr. Reagan set a record for ticket price with \$100 and in 1985 for number of balls with 10. Mr. Bush has matched that number; he relaxed the uniform of the evening from white tie to black tie but stepped up the price to \$175.

The transmission of inaugural ceremonies to the millions who cannot attend provides a capsule history of American communication. The first account to be telegraphed to a waiting world - well, to Baltimore - was of the swearing-in of James K. Polk in 1845, with Samuel F. B. Morse himself, who had invented the telegraph eight years earlier, at a key installed on the platform. The first inauguration to be recorded on motion pictures was William McKinley's in 1897. The first to be broadcast on radio was Warren G. Harding's in 1921; that ceremony also boasted the first public address system on the site. The first to be televised was the 1949 inauguration of Harry S. Truman, although it reached only the East Coast because the coaxial cable had not yet made national telecasts possible. The transportation history of presidents to and from inaugural ceremonies is simpler. Though Jefferson walked to the Capitol, most of his successors rode in horse-drawn carriages. Jackson rode a horse in 1833, and the foolhardy William Henry Harrison did the same



through a storm eight years later. The first to take an automobile was Harding in 1921. Except for Mr. Carter, that has been the approved mode of travel since.

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Summary Questions:

Identify these key terms:

Affirm-

Lame Duck tenancy-

1. What is the only required event that takes place during the inauguration festivities? What events have been added by Presidents throughout history?
2. Who typically administers the Oath of Office? Why do you think that this individual has traditionally served in this role?
3. Describe the choices made by Presidents in regards to taking the **Oath of Office**. If you were President what choices would you make? Why?
4. If the **inaugural address** is not a required part of the inauguration, why do Presidents put so much thought into writing and delivering the address?
5. Inaugural fashions have changed throughout history. Why do you think that many recent Presidents (Carter, Bush, Clinton, G.W.Bush) have chosen to wear business attire instead of formal attire? What image are they presenting to the American people?
6. How did the **20th Amendment** to the United States Constitution limit the “**lame duck**” status of the outgoing President?
7. How have inaugural parades reflected changing times in American society? Provide examples from the reading to support your answer.



8. William Jefferson Clinton was the first President to have his inauguration broadcast via the internet. Discuss the importance of technology in allowing more of the citizenry to participate in the ceremony.

Reflection: Comment on the following in a short paragraph.

Throughout the history of Presidential inaugurations more and more of the citizenry has been invited to participate. From changing the location to accommodate more viewers, to increasing the number of inaugural balls, to broadcasting the ceremonies via telegraph, radio, television and the internet- the inauguration has become more of an event for the average citizen.

To what extent do American citizens exercise their rights to witness and participate in inaugural events? Should Americans pay as much attention to the inaugural events as they do to the electoral process? What can Americans learn about their President by listening to the inaugural address and following the events of the day?



Version B

www.washingtonpost.com

January 21, 1989

From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 – There are only a handful of memorable inauguration ceremonies among the 50 that have occurred. **Washington's** is remembered because it was the first, **Andrew Jackson's** because his White House reception got out of hand, **William Henry Harrison's** because he caught cold and soon died, and **Jimmy Carter's** because he walked back to the White House at the head of his own inaugural parade. The addresses of **Abraham Lincoln**, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and **John F. Kennedy** are remembered for their **eloquence** (expressive use of language.) But historians tell us that many other inaugurations had their own distinctions. More and more events were added to the basic Presidential oath-taking; thousands and ultimately millions of Americans were able to witness or take part in the historic change of national command. What follows is an informal account of this developing custom.

Based on the opening paragraph, which of the following is probably the main idea of this article?

- a. This article will describe the fifty inaugurations in United States History.
- b. This article will discuss additions and changes to the traditional inauguration ceremony.
- c. The article will examine the Presidents use of expressive language during inauguration ceremonies.
- d. The article will analyze the events of each Presidents' term of office.

In the paragraph above, the term *eloquence* is used to describe...

- a. The President's choice of clothing at his inauguration.
- b. The President's ability to address the citizenry.
- c. The President's use of language to express his desires for the nation.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." The **oath of office** that **Barack Obama** (edit) will take is precisely the same 35 words that **George Washington** recited nearly 200 years ago. This aspect of the inauguration ceremony has not changed. The president takes his oath with his hand on a Bible open to a page of his choice. **John Quincy Adams** used a volume of constitutional law given him by Chief Justice John Marshall instead of a Bible. The **Oath of Office** is usually administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. **Franklin Pierce** in 1853 was the only President in history who for religious reasons took the option to "**affirm**," rather than "swear," that he would to uphold the Constitution.

What is the role of the President according to the Oath of Office?

Why do you think John Quincy Adams used a law book instead of a Bible at his inauguration?



Why might a President choose to “affirm” instead of “swear?”

William Henry Harrison's **Inaugural Address** was the longest, 8,500 words and nearly two hours, and had the worst consequences. The weather was cold and stormy, and the cold Harrison caught turned to pneumonia. He died a month later. The shortest inaugural speech was Washington's second, only 135 words long. Franklin Roosevelt's fourth inaugural speech, in 1945, lasted only six minutes. Because of his failing health, he delivered it to a small audience from the South Portico of the White House.

If you were the President, how much time would you devote to your inaugural address? Why?

Inaugural costume, while tending to the formal, has varied over the years. A contemporary account reported that **Washington** wore "a complete suit of Homespun Clothes; the cloth was of a fine fabric and as handsomely finished as any European superfine cloth." The first five Presidents wore knickers to their ceremonies, with **John Quincy Adams** the first to move into trousers. In 1901, **Theodore Roosevelt**, an apostle of the strenuous life, was the first to deliver his Inaugural Address bareheaded. Pearl-gray top hats, matching cutaway coats and darker gray striped trousers - traditional daytime formal wear - were the approved inaugural costume for perhaps a century; **Mr. Carter** rejected this elegance for a business suit in 1977, but **Mr. Reagan** reinstated the cutaway in 1981. In 1985, frigid weather drove **Mr. Reagan** into the Capitol for a semiprivate oath-taking and into a business suit. Now **Mr. Obama (edit)** is returning to the Capitol, weather permitting, but retaining the business suit.

Why would President Carter choose to wear a business suit versus formal attire?

Washington took his Presidential oath in New York in 1789 and 1793 and **John Adams** in Philadelphia four years later, but the rest of the formal inaugural ceremonies have taken place in Washington. Eight inaugurations have been held inside the Capitol, often because of bad weather, but the great majority, 36, have taken place on the **East Portico**, usually on a platform overlooking Capitol Park. The first outdoor inauguration, in 1817, was the product of a typical Congressional dispute. The Senate and House could not agree on a distribution of seats for the event indoors, so President **James Monroe** was sworn in on a platform outside the old brick Capitol, on the site of the present Supreme Court. In 1981, President-elect **Reagan** moved the ceremony from the East to the West Front of the Capitol, for theatrically sound reasons. Capitol Hill falls off to the west, and the ceremony on the steps there is visible to many thousands more spectators than can be accommodated at the East Front.

What is the advantage of having the inauguration outside?



The inauguration of **Barack Obama** is the 19th to be held on Jan. 20, which has been the standard date since **Franklin Roosevelt** began his second term in 1937. From 1797 until then, the date had been March 4, but the **20th Amendment** to the Constitution was adopted in 1933 to shorten the "lame duck" tenancy of the outgoing President. The outgoing president is referred to as a "lame duck" because there is little work he can accomplish even though he is still in office.

When are inaugurations held according to the 20th Amendment?

Why is it important to limit the time a "lame duck" president is in office?

The inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House, now a firm tradition, evolved slowly. When **Washington** took the first oath in New York, he was escorted afterward from Federal Hall to the President's House by troops he had commanded during the Revolution along with Senators and Representatives. In 1801, **Thomas Jefferson** had a military and civilian escort as he walked the block from his boardinghouse to the ceremony at the temporary Capitol building, then as now on Capitol Hill. For his second inauguration four years later, he was the first to ride up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol, establishing the ceremonial route that incoming Presidents now take with their predecessors.

Historical accounts are spotty, but the first full-fledged inaugural parade appears to have followed **Andrew Jackson** back to the White House in 1829. By the time of **Zachary Taylor** in 1849, the parade took an hour to pass a given point. **Lincoln's** first inaugural parade, in 1861, included floats; one of them carried 34 girls representing the existing states, and it paused long enough at the White House for the new President to kiss each of them. The 1865 **Lincoln** parade was the first to include blacks, both civilian organizations and a military battalion. **Ulysses S. Grant's** 1869 parade, the largest to that time, included eight military divisions; he watched it from a reviewing stand. **Grover Cleveland's** second parade, in 1893, lasted six hours despite an inch of wet snow. **William Howard Taft's** parade in 1909 was almost canceled by a blizzard and ice storm, but Mrs. Taft rode to the White House with her husband. The first **Eisenhower** inaugural parade in 1953 had a military theme; 22,000 of the 27,000 marchers were military. **Kennedy's** 1961 parade had 32,000 people and a PT boat in the line of march.

How have inaugural parades allowed more citizens to participate in the ceremonies?

On May 7, 1789 the inaugural ball was born in New York City, with the **George Washington**, Vice President **John Adams** and members of Congress in attendance. The first inaugural souvenir was on sale: a lady's fan with a medallion profile of the President. Some historical accounts refer



to this ball as "unofficial" and say the first official ball did not take place until 1809 with **James** and Dolley **Madison** as its stars and 400 tickets going for \$4 each. The public **clamored** for ball tickets. In 1837 **Martin Van Buren** staged two balls but only attended the higher-priced one. **President Harrison** expanded this to four in 1841, and managed to attend all of them despite of his cold. In 1857 **James Buchanan** restored the single inaugural ball, but he had to construct a special building on Judiciary Square to accommodate 6,000 people for dining and dancing. The coldest inaugural ball was **Grant's** second, in 1873, when the outdoor temperature was 4 degrees. The dancers kept their coats on and the champagne froze.

In this passage the best definition for the word *clamored* is?

- a. shouted
- b. requested
- c. competed
- d. demanded

Rutherford B. Hayes, who was elected in 1876 even though he received fewer popular votes than **Samuel J. Tilden**, was accordingly a little insecure. He did not hold a ball or a public inaugural ceremony but took the oath at a private ceremony in the White House, the first President to do so. **James A. Garfield's** inaugural ball, four years later, was held in Smithsonian Hall, now the Arts and Industries Building, and was the first to feature an electric light. Tickets were \$5; for another dollar, celebrants could have a supper that included pickled oysters, chicken salad, roast turkey, ham and beef, beef tongues, ice cream and cakes. **Woodrow Wilson** did not hold a ball in 1913 because he found it inappropriate to the solemn occasion. **Franklin Roosevelt** held no ball in 1937, 1941 and 1945 in recognition of the Depression and World War II. **Eisenhower** expanded to two inaugural balls in 1953, and that blew the lid off: **Kennedy** and **Lyndon B. Johnson** each held five. In 1981 **Ronald Reagan** held ten balls with a ticket price of \$100. **George H.W. Bush** matched that number this year; he relaxed the uniform of the evening from white tie to black tie but stepped up the price to \$175.

Based on this paragraph, why did some Presidents choose not to hold inaugural balls? Do you think this is a wise decision? Why or why not?

Technology has allowed more citizens to witness the inauguration of the President. The first account to be telegraphed was the swearing-in of **James K. Polk** in 1845. The first inauguration to be recorded on film was **William McKinley's** in 1897. The first to be broadcast on radio and amplified by microphone was **Warren G. Harding's** in 1921. The first to be televised was the 1949 inauguration of **Harry S. Truman**, although it reached only the East Coast because national telecasts were not yet possible.



The transportation history of presidents to and from inaugural ceremonies is simpler. Though **Jefferson** walked to the Capitol, most of his successors rode in horse-drawn carriages. **Jackson** rode a horse in 1833, and the foolhardy **William Henry Harrison** did the same through a storm eight years later. The first to take an automobile was **Harding** in 1921. Except for **Mr. Carter**, who chose to walk, that has been the approved mode of travel since.

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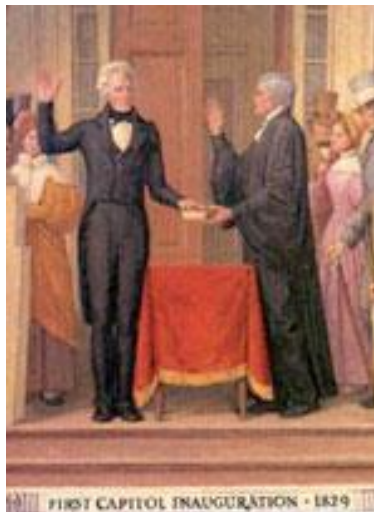
How have increases in technology allowed more citizens to participate in the inaugural events?

William Jefferson Clinton was the first President to have his inauguration broadcast over the internet? How do you think future advances in technology will affect citizen interest in the inauguration?

Inaugural Ceremonies and Souvenirs



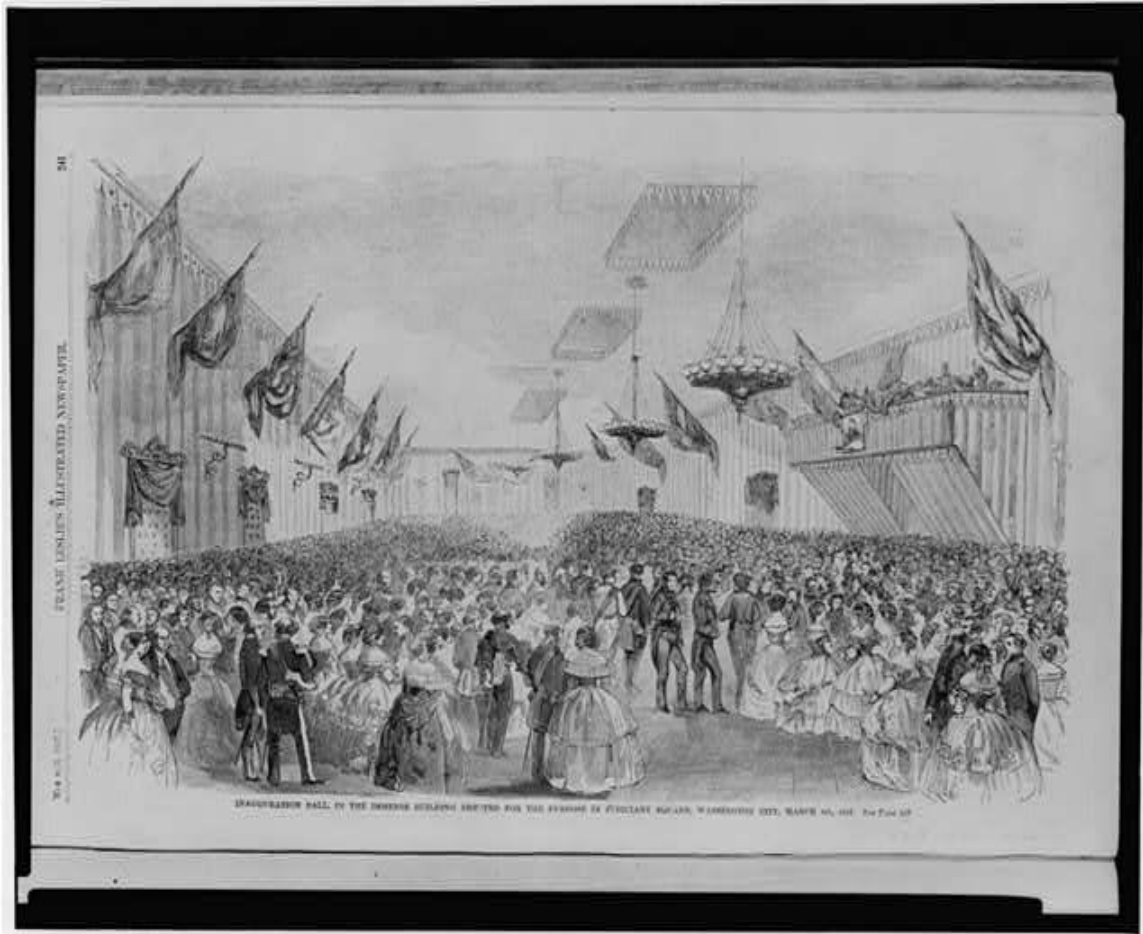
Grover Cleveland- 1885



Andrew Jackson- 1829



Jimmy Carter- 1977



James Buchanan- 1857

PIECES

To be sung at the German Reformed Church,
On WEDNESDAY, the 4th of MARCH, 1801.

SOLEMN INVOCATION.

by Mr. DuRoi
DuRoi
LET our songs ascend to thee,
God of life and LIBERTY :
For grateful songs our tongues employ,
The transports of a Nation's joy.

THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND.

Rembrandt Peale
NO more to subtle arts a prey,
Which, fearful of the eye of day,
A Nation's ruin plann'd :
Now entering on th' auspicious morn,
In which a people's hopes are born,
What joy o'erspreads the land !

While past events portended harm,
And rais'd the spirit of alarm,
Uncertain of the end :
Ere all was lost, the prospect clear'd,
And a bright star of hope appear'd,
The People's chosen Friend.

Devoted to his country's cause,
The Rights of Men and equal Laws,
His hallow'd pen was given :
And now those Rights and Laws to save,
From sinking to an early grave,
He comes, employ'd by Heaven.

What joyful prospects rise before !
Peace, Arts and Science hail our shore,
And thro' the country spread :
Long may these blessings be preserv'd,
And by a virtuous land deserv'd,
With JEFFERSON our head.

CHORUS.

REJOICE, ye States, rejoice,
And spread the patriot flame ;
Call'd by a Nation's voice,
To save his country's fame,
And dissipate increasing fears,
Our favourite JEFFERSON appears.

Let every heart unite,
Th' eventful day to hail ;
When from the Freemen's Right,
The People's hopes prevail ;—
That hence may horrid faction cease,
And honour be maintain'd with PEACE.

AFTER THE ORATION.

Handel
'TIS LIBERTY, dear LIBERTY alone,
Which gives fresh beauty to the sun ;
That bids all nature look more gay,
And lovely life with pleasures steal away.

one but
 What your country is going to do
 for you - ask what you can do
 for your country - my fellow
 citizens of the west - or to be
 or others
 what America is doing for you -

Kennedy- 1961



Lincoln- 1865



Robert Frost's poem read at JF Kennedy's 1961 inauguration

The Gift Outright

BY ROBERT FROST

The land was ours before we were the land's.
 She was our land more than a hundred years
 Before we were her people. She was ours
 In Massachusetts, in Virginia,
 But we were England's, still colonials,
 Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,
 Possessed by what we now no more possessed.
 Something we were withholding made us weak
 Until we found out that it was ourselves
 We were withholding from our land of living,
 And forthwith found salvation in surrender.
 Such as we were we gave ourselves outright
 (The deed of gift was many deeds of war)
 To the land vaguely realizing westward,
 But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,
 Such as she was, such as she would become.





Theodore Roosevelt- 1901



The Inaugural Address

Issued on: January 20, 2017

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/the-inaugural-address/>

Chief Justice Roberts, President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, fellow Americans, and people of the world: thank you.

We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and to restore its promise for all of our people.

Together, we will determine the course of America and the world for years to come.

We will face challenges. We will confront hardships. But we will get the job done.

Every four years, we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power, and we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition. They have been magnificent.

Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one Administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.

For too long, a small group in our nation's Capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost.

Washington flourished – but the people did not share in its wealth.

Politicians prospered – but the jobs left, and the factories closed.

The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country.

Their victories have not been your victories; their triumphs have not been your triumphs; and while they celebrated in our nation's Capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.

That all changes – starting right here, and right now, because this moment is your moment: it belongs to you.



It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America.

This is your day. This is your celebration.

And this, the United States of America, is your country.

What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people.

January 20th 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

Everyone is listening to you now.

You came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction: that a nation exists to serve its citizens.

Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families, and good jobs for themselves.

These are the just and reasonable demands of a righteous public.

But for too many of our citizens, a different reality exists: Mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities; rusted-out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation; an education system, flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of knowledge; and the crime and gangs and drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential.

This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.

We are one nation – and their pain is our pain. Their dreams are our dreams; and their success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny.

The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans.



For many decades, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry;

Subsidized the armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military;

We've defended other nation's borders while refusing to defend our own;

And spent trillions of dollars overseas while America's infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay.

We've made other countries rich while the wealth, strength, and confidence of our country has disappeared over the horizon.

One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores, with not even a thought about the millions upon millions of American workers left behind.

The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed across the entire world.

But that is the past. And now we are looking only to the future.

We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital, and in every hall of power.

From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land.

From this moment on, it's going to be America First.

Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs, will be made to benefit American workers and American families.

We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs. Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength.

I will fight for you with every breath in my body – and I will never, ever let you down.

America will start winning again, winning like never before.



We will bring back our jobs. We will bring back our borders. We will bring back our wealth. And we will bring back our dreams.

We will build new roads, and highways, and bridges, and airports, and tunnels, and railways all across our wonderful nation.

We will get our people off of welfare and back to work – rebuilding our country with American hands and American labor.

We will follow two simple rules: Buy American and Hire American.

We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world – but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first.

We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to follow.

We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones – and unite the civilized world against Radical Islamic Terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth.

At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America, and through our loyalty to our country, we will rediscover our loyalty to each other.

When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

The Bible tells us, “how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”

We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but always pursue solidarity.

When America is united, America is totally unstoppable.

There should be no fear – we are protected, and we will always be protected.

We will be protected by the great men and women of our military and law enforcement and, most importantly, we are protected by God.

Finally, we must think big and dream even bigger.



In America, we understand that a nation is only living as long as it is striving.

We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action – constantly complaining but never doing anything about it.

The time for empty talk is over.

Now arrives the hour of action.

Do not let anyone tell you it cannot be done. No challenge can match the heart and fight and spirit of America.

We will not fail. Our country will thrive and prosper again.

We stand at the birth of a new millennium, ready to unlock the mysteries of space, to free the Earth from the miseries of disease, and to harness the energies, industries and technologies of tomorrow.

A new national pride will stir our souls, lift our sights, and heal our divisions.

It is time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget: that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots, we all enjoy the same glorious freedoms, and we all salute the same great American Flag.

And whether a child is born in the urban sprawl of Detroit or the windswept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the same night sky, they fill their heart with the same dreams, and they are infused with the breath of life by the same almighty Creator.

So to all Americans, in every city near and far, small and large, from mountain to mountain, and from ocean to ocean, hear these words:

You will never be ignored again.

Your voice, your hopes, and your dreams, will define our American destiny. And your courage and goodness and love will forever guide us along the way.

Together, We Will Make America Strong Again.

We Will Make America Wealthy Again.



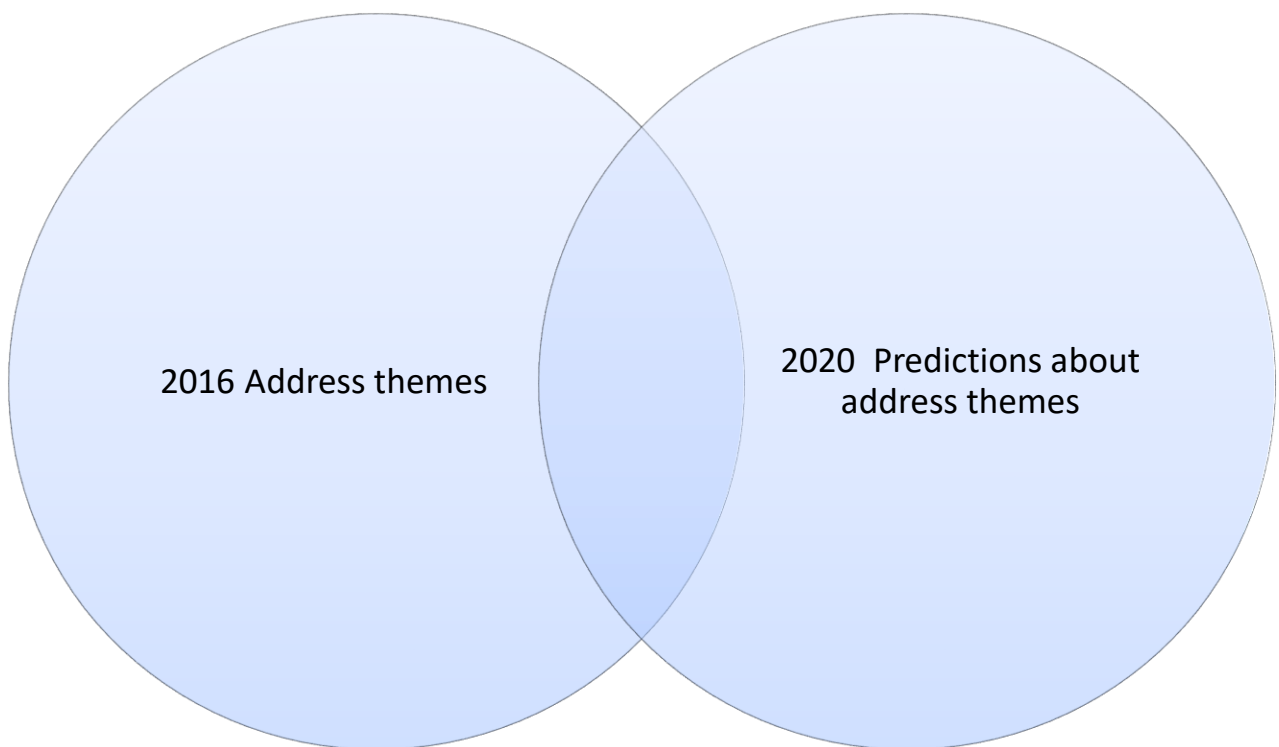
We Will Make America Proud Again.

We Will Make America Safe Again.

And, Yes, Together, We Will Make America Great Again. Thank you, God Bless You, And God Bless America.

Directions:

1. Read the 2016 Inaugural Speech. Identify key themes by listing them in the 2016 side of the Venn Diagram.
2. Using your analysis of current events, the inaugural committee's website and other information, make predictions about what topics may be included in the President's inaugural address in 2020.
3. Place any common themes or topics in the intersecting section of the graph.
4. As you follow the events of January 21st highlight the topics that were included and record any that you hadn't predicted.



Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage

Taking the **Oath of Office** is the only Constitutionally required activity of the President-elect on inauguration day. George Washington set the precedent for making an inaugural speech when he chose to address the crowd gathered for his 1790 inauguration. Each President who has been elected to the office has chosen to follow his example by incorporating an address into the day's activities.

1. Why do you think Washington chose to make an inaugural address?
2. How important is an inaugural address to the new President? To the American people?
3. What do citizens expect to take away from an inaugural address?

Abraham Lincoln- Second Inaugural Address, 1865

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Historical events that influenced this passage:

Message being communicated about the goals of the future administration:



Franklin D. Roosevelt- First Inaugural Address, 1933

This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself- nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

Historical events that influenced this passage:

Message being communicated about the future goals of the administration:

John F. Kennedy- 1961

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Historical events that influenced this passage:

Message being communicated about the future goals of the administration:

Summary Questions:

- In your opinion, how important is the inaugural address to establishing the President as the leader of the Nation? Defend your opinion.
- If you were the President Biden, what would you want to say in your inaugural address?
- How would it be different from what other Presidents have said? Why



Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance

President:

Inaugural Year(s):

Circumstances surrounding the President's election /inauguration:

Inaugural Events:

Important Facts:

Assessment A:

Presidential Inaugurations: Making a Statement

Imagine that you are a features editor for a local newspaper. It will be your task to inform the public about the events of the upcoming inauguration and the history of past Presidential inaugurations. In your article you will want to comment on the following questions:

- What can we predict about a Presidency by examining the ceremonies and choices made regarding a Presidential inauguration?
- To what extent do these choices reflect the values and style of a future President? How will President Biden make this inauguration different from previous inaugurations?
- Given Covid-19 and security concerns how can the citizenry participate in the proceedings? What should Americans know about the inauguration procedure?
- Compare the 2020 inauguration events to those of the past. How have inaugurations changed throughout our nation's history?



Assessment B: Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance



Create a pamphlet that you could distribute to viewers of the 2013 inauguration. Your pamphlet will help citizens to follow the events and understand the history of the ceremonies. In your pamphlet you should include:

- Constitutional requirements for the inauguration
- Memorable facts from past inaugurations
- Events planned for the 2020 inauguration
- How do the events of 2020 reflect the style of Joe Biden?



Presidential Bingo

Directions: Circulate around the room meeting as many of the past U.S. presidents as you can. Find out about their inaugurations and record that information in the box next to their name and year they were inaugurated.

<i>G. Washington</i> 1790 Added “so help me God” to the Oath of Office				
		President’s Day Holiday Free Space		