



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

What happens after the vote? We've learned about candidates and issues, watched political conventions and debates, and cast votes for President. Now it's time for the Inauguration!

GenerationNation provides a variety of hands-on activities to help students learn while watching, reading about, analyzing and discussing the Inauguration.

- Electing a President
- All levels and branches of government
- Roles of citizens and leaders
- Democracy, political process, elections and voting
- Civic participation and leadership
- Current events and public policy issues
- U.S. Constitution
- Media literacy
- Reading and analyzing information
- Writing to communicate information, ideas, facts and opinions
- Communicating a position, listening to others, debating a topic with civility
- And more!



ABOUT THE INAUGURATION

The President is sworn into office at 12:00 Noon on January 20th. This date and time is determined by the United States Constitution Amendment XX, which outlines the terms of presidential office. On Inauguration Day, several events celebrate the peaceful transfer of power between Presidents and when Presidents begin their second terms.

WHAT HAPPENS ON INAUGURATION DAY

Events change in different years. Here are some of the most common:

- Morning Worship Service
- Procession to the Capitol
- Vice-President's Swearing-In
- President's Swearing-In
- Inaugural Address
- Inaugural Luncheon
- Inaugural Parade
- Inaugural Ball

SWEARING-IN THE PRESIDENT

While it may sound like a strange activity, the “swearing-in” is when a person officially becomes the President. In being sworn-in, the Oath of Office is recited.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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. —Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

A Bible is used for the swearing-in. The bibles are often chosen to be symbolic. For example, in 2013, Barack Obama was sworn in using 2 bibles: belonging to President Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Supreme Court Chief Justice usually administers the Oath of Office.



Learn more

Watch and read past presidents www.inaugural.senate.gov/about/past-inaugural-ceremonies

Article II of U.S. Constitution www.constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/articles/article-ii

Past Presidential Oaths of Office (1789-2013) <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pioaths.html>

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

In the Inaugural Address, the President outlines his vision and goals for America. This is an important speech that will be viewed, and analyzed, worldwide now and for years to come.

Many memorable Inaugural Addresses have been delivered in the past including:

- Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address (March 4, 1861)
- Abraham Lincoln's second Inaugural Address (March 4, 1865)
- Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Address (March 4, 1905)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt's first Inaugural Address (March 4, 1933)
- John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address (January 20, 1961)
- Ronald Reagan's first Inaugural Address (January 20, 1981)
- Harry S. Truman Inaugural Address (January 20, 1949)
- Barack Obama's first Inaugural Address (January 20, 2009)

The shortest Inaugural Address was given by George Washington, with 135 words in his second inaugural address. William Henry Harrison, who spoke for two hours, gave the longest. It was a freezing and windy day on March 4, 1841. He caught a cold, which developed into pneumonia. He died soon afterward, only serving as President for 31 days.

History of Inaugural Addresses (George Washington – Barack Obama)

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/inaugurations/index.html>

Videos of Inaugural Addresses

Harry Truman (1949) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXE-u4WanMI>

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwenOlpbvTA>

John F. Kennedy (1961) <http://youtu.be/BLmiOEK59n8>

Lyndon B. Johnson (1965) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d_24rNoPDU

Richard Nixon (1969) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjFZlFXnrNs>

Jimmy Carter (1977) <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Cart>

Ronald Reagan (1981) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpPt7xGx4Xo>

George H. W. Bush (1988) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S2ptmXsxzs>

Bill Clinton (1993) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SWjIPwm954>

George W. Bush (2001) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXzgMdj5urs>

Barack Obama (2009) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjnygQ02aW4>

Learn about the Inauguration

Joint Committee for the Inauguration, <http://inaugural.senate.gov>



INAUGURATION ACTIVITIES

Read and analyze the Oath of Office

Article II, Section 1 of the United States Constitution requires that presidents must take the oath of office before they can assume the official duties of President. The completion of this thirty-five-word oath ends one president's term and begins the next.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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.

Why is the Oath of Office important? What does the Oath of Office mean? If you were in charge of re-writing, and possibly modernizing the Oath of Office, what would you change?

Watch Swearing-In videos <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/inaugurations/index.html> and <http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/about/past-inaugural-ceremonies>

Write your own Inaugural Address

The newly-elected President, or President beginning a second term, provides a vision and direction for the nation. Usually, the speech focuses on “big picture” goals rather than detailed specifics. It is also a good leadership tool that can help to communicate key messages as well as motivate and unify leaders and citizens.

- As a speechwriter, what do you think the President should say in the Inaugural Address? Write a speech!
- Or partner with a speechwriting team in your class to create a new speech using quotes from addresses delivered by prior Presidents.

Read/watch Inauguration speeches, from George Washington to Barack Obama <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/inaugurations/index.html> and <http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/about/past-inaugural-ceremonies>



Watch and analyze the Inaugural Address

You can watch the Inaugural Address live on January 20 at 12:00PM. It will be covered on major networks and streamed on the web. C-SPAN is a good resource: www.cspan.org.

When it is available after the address, GenerationNation will post the video at www.GenerationNation.org.

Make notes and think about what you see – what does the stage look like? Who’s there and what are they doing? Which topics are being covered? Any surprises? What did you learn...anything you will remember forever? Use the scorecard to keep track, and discuss at home or in the classroom.

Download activity: www.GenerationNation.org/documents/inaugural_analysis.pdf

Write the headline

Watch and read about the Inauguration. Pay attention, and answer these questions. Write your answers or share in groups or with your class or with your family.

- If you were reporting on the Inauguration, what would your headline be?
- The next day, read actual headlines. Were you close? Were they right? Why or why not?
- Read headlines from different news sources. What do they say? How are they similar or different? Why?

Download activity: www.GenerationNation.org/documents/Write_headline_inaug.pdf

Getting the message across

Watch the Inaugural Address. Write your answers or share in groups and discuss with your class or family.

- What is the key message the President is trying to deliver?
- How does he communicate the information?
- Does he read from a piece of paper?
- Does he raise or lower his voice or move his hands to illustrate a specific point?
- Does he show emotions and expressions? How? Why? When?
- Does he look confident? Is he? How can you?



- How is he dressed? What about the First Lady? The special guests? Does this matter?
- Is the President persuasive? How?
- What do you think is the most effective thing the President does to communicate the information? Least effective?
- If you were the President's advisor, what would you tell him to keep doing? Improve?
- Bonus: watch videos from previous addresses, and rank the Presidents in terms of message and effectiveness.

Download activity: www.GenerationNation.org/documents/GETTING_MSG_ACROSS_Inaug.pdf

Wish for America/My Community

The Inaugural Address gives the President the opportunity to share his vision for America and outline how he will be a leader and problem-solver over the next 4 years. Do you have an idea for solving a civic problem? How would you make your school, neighborhood, community or country a better place? Make it happen!

Download activity: http://www.generationnation.org/documents/MyWish_andIdeas%201.pdf

MLK Day

In January, we celebrate both Inauguration Day and honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. Here are activities to help you learn more about MLK and make a difference.

Download activity: <http://generationnation.org/index.php/learn/entry/i-have-a-dream>

Inauguration Day Activities

View/download a copy of this document, access multimedia links and find correlates to Common Core and NC social studies standards

<http://www.generationnation.org/index.php/learn/entry/inauguration>