Presidential Inauguration
January 20, 2009

2009 Inaugural Theme: “A New Birth of Freedom”

Instructional Information and Student Activities

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History of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

On January 20, 2009, the newly elected President of the United States will take the constitutional oath of office marking the 56th formal Presidential Inaugural ceremony since 1789. In all, U.S. Presidents have been sworn into office 68 times—usually in public, sometimes in private following the death or resignation of a President, or because Inauguration Day fell on a Sunday. While the U.S. Senate oversaw the first 28 Inaugurations of the President and Vice President, since 1901, all Inaugural ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol have been organized by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). A separate Presidential Inaugural Committee, appointed by the President-elect, has responsibility for all official Inaugural events other than those held at the Capitol. The military also plays a role with the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, which coordinates all military participation and support for the Inaugural ceremonies.

Although the United States Constitution specified the oath to be taken by the President, the Framers of the Constitution provided that Congress would determine when and where the Inauguration would take place. As the nation grew, so too did interest in the Presidential Inaugurations. By the late 1820s, what had typically been a small, indoor ceremony moved outdoors, allowing more people to witness this important event first hand. By the end of the 19th century, the Presidential Inauguration had evolved into an elaborate day-long event, marked by parades, fireworks, luncheons, and glamorous Inaugural balls. As the event evolved, so did the Senate’s role in the ceremony, and increasingly the House of Representatives became frustrated by their lack of involvement in the planning stage of Presidential Inaugurations.
In March of 1897, as preparations for William McKinley’s first Inauguration were underway, members of the House of Representatives protested when they learned Senators would receive twice as many Inaugural tickets. Representatives were further angered when they discovered the Inaugural platform would be built entirely in front of the Senate wing of the Capitol. "In other words," the Washington Post reported, "the House is not to be recognized in this matter even a little bit." Senators defended their actions by reminding their House colleagues that, as a continuing body which advises the President on nominations and treaties, the Senate held a unique position within the federal government, one that was co-equal with the President. The Senate maintained its control over the 1897 Inauguration, but four years later the responsibilities were shared by both houses of Congress.

Photo Above- Library of Congress: Sen. Marcus Hanna

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies was formed in 1901 to oversee Inaugural ceremonies at the United States Capitol. Representatives Joseph Cannon, John Dalzell, and Thomas McRae joined Senators Marcus Hanna, John Spooner and James Jones to plan McKinley’s second Inaugural. Hanna chaired the committee, and continued the Senate tradition of accompanying the President-elect on his carriage ride to the Capitol. By all accounts, the joint effort was a success. The 1901 ceremony included parades and exhibitions viewed by the new President from a glass-enclosed reviewing stand at the White House, and the whole event was recorded—for the first time—by motion picture cameras.

Since 1901, Congress has created a new Inaugural committee every four years to plan and conduct the Inaugural activities at the Capitol, including the swearing-in ceremony and the luncheon honoring the President and Vice President. As tradition dictates, the Committee includes the Senate Majority Leader (at the time of appointment), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives.

The current JCCIC was established by resolution (S.Con.Res. 67) on February 28, 2008. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, Chairman of the Senate
Committee on Rules and Administration, chairs the committee. Other members include Senators Harry Reid of Nevada and Bob Bennett of Utah, as well as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of California and Representatives Steny Hoyer of Maryland and John Boehner of Ohio.

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)

**Platform History- Where the President Stands**

**Fast Facts about the Platform**

- The inaugural platform is constructed entirely from scratch for each inaugural ceremony.
- The platform will be more than 10,000 square feet—the same size as the platform used for the 2005 inaugural, which was the largest platform ever built for an inauguration.
- On inauguration day it will hold more than 1,600 people including:
  - The President and Vice-President-elects and their families
  - Members of U.S. Senate and House of Representatives
  - Cabinet members and nominees
  - Justices of the Supreme Court
  - The outgoing President and Vice President
  - Former presidents
  - The Joint Chiefs of Staff
  - Governors
  - The diplomatic corps
- In addition, bleachers built above the platform, on the Upper West Terrace will hold another 1,000 people including choirs and guests.
- It is built entirely of lumber, to protect the surfaces of the Capitol.
- The platform is fully ADA compliant.
- It is a stadium design, which maximizes the sightlines for the guests on the platform.
- It is designed to blend architecturally with the U.S. Capitol.
- Planning and design of the platform began more than a year ago.

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)
Inauguration Day Timeline of Events:

1. **Morning Worship Service**

![Photo Above- Library of Congress: John F. Kennedy Shakes hands with Father Richard J. Casey after attending Mass at Holy Trinity Church.](image)

On March 4, 1933, at 10:15 a.m., prior to his swearing-in ceremony, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor attended a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church, next to the White House. They did the same at Roosevelt's 1937 and 1941 Inaugurations, and arranged for a private service at the White House the morning of his fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. Roosevelt's Inauguration Day worship service set a precedent that has been followed by Presidents ever since.

Franklin Roosevelt was not the first President to attend church on Inauguration Day, however. In 1789, George Washington attended a service at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City immediately following his swearing-in ceremony. Although this feature of Washington's Inauguration did not set a precedent, religion still played a role in subsequent swearing-in ceremonies. Almost all Presidents since George Washington have placed their hand on a Bible when taking the oath of office. And all Presidents have included some reference to the Almighty in their Inaugural addresses (except George Washington's second address, which was only 135 words).

The following list provides information on Inauguration Day worship services attended by Presidents and Presidents-elect since 1933:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Inauguration Date</th>
<th>Service Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George W. Bush</td>
<td>Saturday, January 20, 2001</td>
<td>Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Clinton</td>
<td>Monday, January 20, 1997</td>
<td>Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Clinton</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 20, 1993</td>
<td>Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church (8:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George H. W. Bush</td>
<td>Friday, January 20, 1989</td>
<td>Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>Sunday, January 20, 1985</td>
<td>Attended service at National Cathedral Monday, January 21; attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 20, 1981</td>
<td>Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E. Carter</td>
<td>Thursday, January 20, 1977</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. interfaith prayer service at the Lincoln Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard M. Nixon</td>
<td>Saturday, January 20, 1973</td>
<td>No apparent church service Inauguration Day morning; attended church the next day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard M. Nixon</td>
<td>Monday, January 20, 1969</td>
<td>Attended official prayer breakfast in West Auditorium of the State Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 20, 1965</td>
<td>Attended private service at National City Christian Church (9:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>Friday, January 20, 1961</td>
<td>Attended Mass at Holy Trinity Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower</td>
<td>Sunday, January 20, 1957</td>
<td>Attended services at National Presbyterian Church (9:00 a.m.); took private oath of office that day; public ceremony the next day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 20, 1953</td>
<td>Attended service at National Presbyterian Church (9:30 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry S Truman</td>
<td>Thursday, January 20, 1949</td>
<td>Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Saturday, January 20, 1941</td>
<td>Private service held in the East Room of the White House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Monday, January 20, 1937</td>
<td>Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:30 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 20, 1937</td>
<td>Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Saturday, March 4, 1933</td>
<td>Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church (10:15 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)
2. Procession to the Capitol

Photo Above- Library of Congress: Taft and Roosevelt driving to the Capitol, 1909

On Inauguration Day, after a morning worship service, the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and their spouses will be escorted to the White House by members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. After a brief meeting, the President-elect and the outgoing President will then proceed together to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremonies. This tradition has endured, with few exceptions, since 1837, when Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson rode together in a carriage made from wood taken from the U.S.S. Constitution. The Vice President and Vice President-elect will follow, as will family members, cabinet members, and members of the JCCIC.

Since the first Inauguration of George Washington in 1789, the procession to the Inaugural ceremonies has provided an occasion for much celebration. In fact, the Inaugural parade that now follows the swearing-in ceremony first began as the procession, when military companies, bands, the President's cabinet, elected officials, and friends escorted the President-elect to the Inauguration. Procedures changed in 1873, when President Ulysses S. Grant reviewed the troops from a stand in front of the White House after the swearing-in ceremony. In 1881, a single military division escorted President-elect Garfield to the Capitol, and the full parade occurred after the Inauguration.
Although most presidents rode to their Inaugurations in a carriage (or later, an automobile), Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson both walked to their swearing-in ceremonies. In 1825, outgoing President James Monroe took part in the procession to the Capitol in his own carriage, following President-elect John Quincy Adams' carriage. In 1841, William Henry Harrison rode to the Capitol for his swearing-in ceremony on the back of a "white charger," surrounded by his close political allies. In 1845, outgoing President John Tyler joined President-elect Polk for the carriage-ride to the Capitol, firmly establishing the tradition first carried out by Van Buren and Jackson in 1837.

By the time of Zachary Taylor's Inauguration in 1849, a routine for the procession had been established, although it would change in small ways over time. A military and civilian escort would parade to the President-elect's lodgings, where they were joined by the outgoing President. The outgoing President would take his seat in the carriage to the right of the President-elect, and the whole entourage would then proceed to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony.

At the 1857 Inauguration of James Buchanan, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements for the Inauguration formed an escort, and joined the President and President-elect in the carriage, starting a long-running tradition.

Lincoln did not join the procession to the Capitol for his second Inauguration in 1865. He had already gone to the Capitol early that morning to sign last-minute bills into law. The parade proceeded without him, and even made history as African-Americans marched for the first time.

In 1869, Andrew Johnson became only the third President who did not join the President-elect in the procession to the Capitol, nor did he attend the swearing-in ceremony. He remained at the White House, signing last-minute legislation until his term expired at noon.

The 1877 Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes started the tradition of the President-elect going first to the White House to meet the outgoing President before proceeding to the Capitol. The Vice President and Vice President-elect followed in a separate carriage, and after them, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements. Future Inaugurations would follow this precedent.

Edith Galt Wilson became the first First Lady to accompany her husband in the carriage to the Capitol in 1917. In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride to his Inauguration in an automobile. Lyndon B. Johnson's procession to the Capitol in 1965 was marked by stringent security measures, including a bullet-proof limousine.
Today, the Presidential procession to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony follows a firmly established protocol, based on the evolving traditions of past Inaugurations.

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)

3. Vice President’s Swearing-In Ceremony

![Vice-President Wheeler Taking the Oath of Office in the Senate Chamber](image)

Just before the President-elect takes the oath of office on Inauguration Day, the Vice President-elect will step forward on the Inaugural platform and repeat the oath of office. Although the United States Constitution specifically sets forth the oath required by the President, it only says that the Vice President and other government officers should take an oath upholding the Constitution. It does not specify the form of that oath.

The First Congress passed an oath act on June 1, 1789, authorizing only senators to administer the oath to the Vice President (who serves as the president of the Senate). Later that year, legislation passed that allowed courts to administer all oaths and affirmations. Since 1789, the oath has been changed several times by Congress. The present oath repeated by the Vice President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, and other government officers has been in use since 1884. The oath reads:
I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

While tradition dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administers the oath of office to the President-elect, a variety of officials have administered the oath to Vice Presidents. The president pro tempore of the Senate administered the oath to the first three Vice Presidents—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Aaron Burr—and to many Vice Presidents from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Some Vice Presidents took the oath from the Chief Justice. On some occasions, the outgoing Vice President administered the oath to the Vice President-elect. Since World War II, Vice Presidents have chosen friends and associates to administer the oath of office.

The location of the Vice President's oath-taking ceremony has also changed since John Adams became Vice President in 1789. Today, the Vice President recites the oath on the west front terrace of the U.S. Capitol. Until 1937, most Vice Presidents took the oath of office in the Senate chamber, prior to the President's swearing-in ceremony. This made the Vice President's swearing-in ceremony distinct and separate from the President's.

For most of the nation's history, Inauguration Day was March 4, which was also the final day of the congressional session. During the morning, the galleries of the Senate chamber would begin to fill with family members and friends of Senators, Representatives, and the incoming and outgoing Presidents and Vice Presidents. Members of the House, the diplomatic corps, cabinet members, and members of the Supreme Court would enter next. Finally, the Vice President-elect, the President, and the President-elect would enter the crowded chamber, which would then grow quiet to hear the Vice President deliver his farewell address before gaveling the session closed.

At noon (the doorkeeper often had to push the clock hands back to fulfill the noon adjournment requirement), the Vice President-elect would take the oath of office, and then deliver his Inaugural address. Following that, the newly-sworn Vice President would call the Senate into extraordinary session, and then the Senators-elect would come forward and take their oaths of office. Finally, the procession would form and make its way to the east front portico of the Capitol for the President's swearing-in ceremony.

In 1937, Inauguration Day moved to January 20, a change enacted by the 20th amendment to the Constitution. The Vice President's swearing-in ceremony also moved, from the Senate chamber to the Inaugural platform on the Capitol's east front. In 1981, the Inaugural ceremonies moved to the west front terrace of the Capitol, where they have been held ever since.
Although the Vice Presidential swearing-in ceremony lost some of its distinctness after it moved to the east front portico, it gained a public audience, and reflected the growing political importance of the Vice President as part of the executive branch of government.

Source:  http://inaugural.senate.gov/

4. Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony (Parts 1-6)

Part 1 of 6

Above- National Archives: April 30, 1789: George Washington taking Inaugural oath at Federal Hall, New York, New York

"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

Proceedings associated with the Presidential elections and Inaugurations, almost routine after two centuries, were entirely new and untried following the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The Constitution provides that the President be elected through an electoral college, with membership equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each state. It authorizes Congress to determine when elections are held, when the Electoral College meets, and when the new President takes the oath of office. The Constitution also requires that the President must be a native born citizen of the United States, have lived in this country for at least fourteen years, and have attained the age of thirty-five. It
even specifies the oath of office that the new President should swear or affirm. Beyond that, the Constitution says nothing about the Inaugural ceremony.

The first Inauguration of George Washington occurred on April 30, 1789, in front of New York's Federal Hall. Our nation's first President took the oath of office on a balcony overlooking Wall Street. With the ceremony complete, the crowd below let out three big cheers and President Washington returned to the Senate chamber to deliver his brief Inaugural address. He called upon "That Almighty Being who rules over the universe" to assist the American people in finding "liberties and happiness" under "a government instituted by themselves."

**Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony**

*Part 2 of 6*


Four years later, on March 4, 1793, Washington's second Inauguration happened in Philadelphia, where the government had taken up temporary residence while a permanent capital was being built along the Potomac. The President took his oath in the small Senate chamber on the second floor of Congress Hall, a Georgian-style structure just west of Independence Hall. In contrast to his elaborate first Inauguration, this ceremony was a simple affair. Amidst a room crammed with dignitaries, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural address on record—just 135 words—and repeated the oath of office, administered by Supreme Court Justice William Cushing.

By March of 1801, the seat of the U.S. government had moved to Washington, D.C. The streets were muddy, almost impassable, and overgrown with bushes. Crude arrangements for the workers charged with constructing buildings for the federal government scarred the landscape. At the time, the Capitol Building
comprised just one wing, which housed the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court, all under one roof. On March 4, 1801, President-elect Thomas Jefferson walked with few attendants and little fanfare to the Capitol Building from his nearby lodgings at a boarding house to become the first President to be inaugurated in the nation’s new capital city. Upon entering the Senate chamber, now the Old Supreme Court Chamber, Jefferson immediately took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice John Marshall and addressed the audience gathered in the Senate chamber. After his Inaugural address he finished his day with a meal at the boarding house. But for a few occasions, the Inauguration ceremonies for all future Presidents and Vice Presidents would take place in the City of Washington.

Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony

Part 3 of 6


Andrew Jackson's Inauguration on March 4, 1829 was the first of 35 held on the east front of the Capitol. Though Jackson's second Inauguration in 1833 took place inside the House chamber because of his ill health and bad weather, Presidents from Martin Van Buren in 1837 to Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 were sworn into office on the Capitol's east front. In 1909 a raging blizzard forced William Howard Taft's ceremony indoors to the Senate chamber.

The turn of the century brought a milestone worth noting—the formation of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Until the twentieth
century, the Inaugural ceremonies had been handled exclusively by the United States Senate. In 1901, one hundred years after the Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, the Joint Committee was formed to plan and conduct the Inauguration ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol. Senator Marcus A. Hanna, a Republican from Ohio, became the first chairman, responsible for President William McKinley’s second Inauguration.

Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony

Part 4 of 6


On March 4, 1913, Woodrow Wilson resumed use of the east front for his Inauguration. The ceremony continued to be held there until Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. With the nation and the President weary after four years of war, Roosevelt chose to have a simple, low-key ceremony on the south portico of the White House.

In 1949, Harry Truman's Inauguration saw the return of the ceremonies to the Capitol's east front, where they remained through the Inauguration of Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Ronald Reagan's 1981 Inauguration was the first held on the west front of the Capitol. Seeking to minimize construction costs and improve visibility for a larger number of spectators, Congress shifted the ceremony from its traditional location of the east front. Although Ronald Reagan's second Inauguration, on January 21, 1985, was forced indoors to the Capitol Rotunda because of bitterly cold

**Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony**

*Part 5 of 6*

Above- Library of Congress: Calvin Coolidge taking the oath of office, August 3, 1923.

Sadly, not all Presidential Inaugurals have been stately formal ceremonies, or happy occasions. Eight Vice Presidents have taken the oath of office upon the death of a President, while another was sworn in following a Presidential resignation. John Tyler was at his home in Williamsburg, Virginia, when he received the news that President William Henry Harrison had died. Tyler immediately took a coach to Washington. The next day, April 6, 1841, Tyler was sworn in as President at the Indian Queen Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. Chief Justice William Cranch of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia administered the oath to Tyler, as he did nine years later to Millard Fillmore, following the death of President Zachary Taylor. On July 10, 1850, Vice President Fillmore took the oath in a public ceremony in the House of Representatives chamber.

President Abraham Lincoln died early on the morning of April 15, 1865, and shortly afterwards Vice President Andrew Johnson was sworn in quietly at Kirkwood House, in Washington, by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. At 2:00 a.m. on September 20, 1881, Chester Alan Arthur took the oath at his home on Lexington Avenue, in New York City. Two days later, President Arthur repeated the oath in the Vice President's Room in the Capitol, in the presence of former Presidents Grant and Hayes. When William McKinley died, on September 14, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt took the oath in the home of Ansley Wilcox, in Buffalo, New York. News of President Harding's death reached Vice President Calvin
Coolidge at his family's homestead in Plymouth, Vermont in the small hours of the morning on August 3, 1923. By the light of a kerosene lamp, Coolidge took the oath from his father, Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, a farmer, notary public, and justice of the peace. On August 21, Coolidge repeated the ceremony in his suite at the Willard Hotel in Washington.

**Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony**

*Part 6 of 6*

Photo Above- LBJ Library: Sarah T. Hughes, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas, administering oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson in the Conference Room aboard Air Force One at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963.

Harry Truman took his oath as President in the Cabinet Room at the White House on the evening of April 12, 1945, following the death of Franklin Roosevelt. On November 22, 1963, in a crowded cabin on Air Force One, at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as President after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who administered the oath that day, became the first woman to swear in a President. Most recently, when President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, becoming the ninth Vice President to complete an unexpired Presidential term.

Although Inaugural traditions have changed through the years, their fundamental premise remains unchanged and unwavering. The American Presidential Inauguration Ceremony, with its speeches and attendant festivities, has
represented both national renewal and continuity of leadership for the past two hundred years and will continue to do so into the future.

Source: http://inaugural.senate.gov/

5. Inaugural Address

Photo Above- Library of Congress Theodore Roosevelt delivers his Inaugural address, 1905.

The custom of delivering an address on Inauguration Day started with the very first Inauguration—George Washington's—on April 30, 1789. After taking his oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, Washington proceeded to the Senate chamber where he read a speech before members of Congress and other dignitaries. His second Inauguration took place in Philadelphia on March 4, 1793, in the Senate chamber of Congress Hall. There, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural address on record—just 135 words—before repeating the oath of office.

Every President since Washington has delivered an Inaugural address. While many of the early Presidents read their addresses before taking the oath, current custom dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administer the oath first, followed by the President's speech.

William Henry Harrison delivered the longest Inaugural address, at 8,445 words, on March 4, 1841—a bitterly cold, wet day. He died one month later of pneumonia, believed to have been brought on by prolonged exposure to the
elements on his Inauguration Day. John Adams' Inaugural address, which totaled 2,308 words, contained the longest sentence, at 737 words. After Washington's second Inaugural address, the next shortest was Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth address on January 20, 1945, at just 559 words. Roosevelt had chosen to have a simple Inauguration at the White House in light of the nation's involvement in World War II.

In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to take his oath and deliver his Inaugural address through loud speakers. In 1925, Calvin Coolidge's Inaugural address was the first to be broadcast nationally by radio. And in 1949, Harry S. Truman became the first President to deliver his Inaugural address over television airwaves.

Most Presidents use their Inaugural address to present their vision of America and to set forth their goals for the nation. Some of the most eloquent and powerful speeches are still quoted today. In 1865, in the waning days of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln stated, "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." In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt avowed, "we have nothing to fear but fear itself." And in 1961, John F. Kennedy declared, "And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Today, Presidents deliver their Inaugural address on the west front of the Capitol, but this has not always been the case. Until Andrew Jackson's first Inauguration in 1829, most Presidents spoke in either the House or Senate chambers. Jackson became the first President to take his oath of office and deliver his address on the east front portico of the U.S. Capitol in 1829. With few exceptions, the next 37 Inaugurations took place there, until 1981, when Ronald Reagan's swearing-in ceremony and Inaugural address occurred on the west front terrace of the Capitol. The west front has been used ever since.

Source:  http://inaugural.senate.gov/
6. Departure of the Outgoing President


Following the inaugural ceremony on the west front of the U.S. Capitol, the outgoing President and First Lady leave the Capitol to begin their post-presidential lives.

Traditionally, the President's departure takes place with little ceremony. An 1889 "Handbook of Official and Social Etiquette and Public Ceremonies at Washington," described the outgoing President's departure this way:

His departure from the Capital is attended with no ceremony, other than the presence of the members of his late Cabinet and a few officials and personal friends. The President leaves the Capital as soon as practicable after the inauguration of his successor.

In 1798, George Washington attended the inauguration of his successor, John Adams, and several observers noted that onlookers paid more attention to Washington than to Adams. With few exceptions, subsequent departing presidents followed Washington's example, and in 1837, President-elect Martin Van Buren and outgoing President Andrew Jackson began the tradition of riding together to the Capitol for the ceremonies.

Until the early 20th century, the departing president also usually accompanied the newly elected president on the carriage-ride from the Capitol to the White House following the inauguration. In the early years, the procession would deliver the former president to his lodgings. (The president usually vacated the White House a day or two before the inauguration.) As the parade became more established, the outgoing president sometimes reviewed the parade with the new president. Around the same time, the outgoing president and first lady began to arrange a luncheon at the White House for the new president and his party. The
outgoing president and first lady usually made a quiet departure prior to the luncheon.

In the early 20th century, a new tradition evolved whereby the outgoing president quietly left the Capitol immediately following the inaugural ceremony. In 1909, after congratulating President Howard Taft, former President Theodore Roosevelt left the Capitol for Union Station, where he took a train to his home in New York. In 1921, an ailing President Wilson accompanied president-elect Harding to the Capitol, but was too ill to remain during the ceremony. Outgoing Presidents Coolidge and Hoover also left the Capitol for Union Station where they traveled home by train. Outgoing Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Johnson left the Capitol by Car. Johnson and his family drove to Andrews Air Force Base where they boarded Air Force One for the trip home to Texas.

In recent years, the newly installed President and Vice President have escorted their predecessors out of the Capitol after the swearing-in ceremony. The members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies gather on the stairs on the east front of the Capitol Building. The new Vice President escorts the outgoing Vice President and his spouse out of the Capitol through a military cordon. Then, the new President escorts the outgoing President and his spouse through the military cordon. Since Gerald Ford's departure in 1977, the former President and First Lady have left the Capitol grounds by helicopter (weather permitting).

The new President and Vice President then return to the Capitol Building for the inaugural luncheon hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

Source:  http://inaugural.senate.gov/

7. Inaugural Luncheon

On January 20, after the newly elected President has taken the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural address, he will be escorted to Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol for the traditional Inaugural luncheon, hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). While this tradition dates as far back as 1897, when the Senate Committee on Arrangements gave a luncheon for President McKinley and several other guests at the U.S. Capitol, it did not begin in its current form until 1953. That year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mrs. Eisenhower, and fifty other guests of the JCCIC dined on creamed chicken, baked ham, and potato puffs in the now-restored Old Senate Chamber.

From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, Presidents left the Capitol after the Inauguration ceremonies and traveled to the White House for a luncheon prepared by the outgoing President and First Lady. After the luncheon, the President and his party would view the parade from a stand erected in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.

As the parade grew larger over the years, and lasted later and later into the afternoon, organizers began to look for ways to hasten its start. In 1897, they proposed that the President go directly from the Capitol to the reviewing stand, and have lunch there, if he desired. Instead, the Presidential party dined in the Capitol as guests of the Senate Committee on Arrangements. In 1901, the President again took his lunch at the Capitol, and the parade delays continued. In 1905, the luncheon returned to the White House, again in the hopes that the parade could start earlier. Eventually, the organizers turned their focus to shortening the parade, rather than the luncheon.

As the twentieth century progressed, the White House luncheons became more and more elaborate. In 1945, President and Mrs. Roosevelt played host to over two thousand guests in what would be the last White House post-inaugural luncheon. In 1949, Secretary of the Senate Leslie Biffle hosted a small lunch for President Truman in his Capitol reception room. They dined on South Carolina turkey, Smithfield Ham, potato salad, and pumpkin pie. And in 1953, the JCCIC began its current tradition of hosting a luncheon for the President, Vice President and their spouses, Senate leaders, the JCCIC members, and other invited guests.

Since then, the JCCIC has organized a luncheon celebration at eight Presidential Inaugurations. Often featuring cuisine reflecting the home states of the new President and Vice President, as well as the theme of the Inauguration, the luncheon program includes speeches, gift presentations from the JCCIC, and toasts to the new administration.

Source:  http://inaugural.senate.gov/
8. Inaugural Parade


When the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has concluded its luncheon, the guests of honor—the newly sworn President and Vice President—will make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands, and floats. The President, Vice President, their wives, and special guests will then review the parade as it passes in front of a specially built reviewing stand. The Inaugural parade is a celebrated and much anticipated event for millions of Americans across the country.

The tradition of an Inaugural parade dates back to the very first Inauguration, when George Washington took the oath of office on April 30, 1789, in New York City. As he began his journey from Mount Vernon to New York City, local militias joined his procession as it passed through towns along the way. Once he arrived in New York City, members of the Continental Army, government officials, members of Congress, and prominent citizens escorted Washington to Federal Hall for his swearing-in ceremony.

The early Inaugural parades primarily consisted of escorts for the President-elect to the Capitol. Thomas Jefferson's first Inauguration, in 1801, was the first to take place in the new capital city of Washington. Only the north wing of the Capitol was completed at that time, and as Jefferson walked from his nearby boardinghouse to the Capitol, he was accompanied by an Alexandria, Virginia company of riflemen, friends, and “fellow citizens.” After his second Inauguration in 1805, a procession formed at the navy yard made up of members of Congress and citizens—including navy yard mechanics—which then escorted President
Jefferson from the Capitol to the White House after the Inauguration, accompanied by military music performed by the Marine Band. The Marine Band has played at every Presidential Inauguration since.

The first organized parade occurred in 1809, at the Inauguration of James Madison. A troop of cavalry from Georgetown escorted him to the Capitol. After taking the oath of office, Madison sat in review of nine companies of militia. Future Inaugurations saw these military escorts grow more and more elaborate. William Henry Harrison's parade in 1841 featured floats, and for the first time, military companies from outside the Washington, D.C. area accompanied the President-elect to the Capitol. Citizens clubs, political clubs, several military bands, and groups of college students also marched in the parade, setting future precedent.

In 1865, during Abraham Lincoln's second Inauguration, African-Americans marched in the parade for the first time. Four companies of African-American troops, a lodge of African-American Odd Fellows, and African-American Masons joined the procession to the Capitol, and then back to the White House after the Inaugural.

In 1873, President Grant started the tradition of reviewing the parade at the White House after the Inaugural ceremony, shifting the focus of excitement to the post-Inaugural procession, rather than the escort to the Capitol. In 1881, President James Garfield reviewed the parade from a specially built stand in front of the White House. Reviewing stands were also erected along Pennsylvania Avenue for visitors. In 1897, President McKinley reviewed the parade in a glass-enclosed stand to protect him from cold, and possibly harsh, weather.

Despite a blizzard that forced the Inauguration ceremony indoors for William H. Taft in 1909, the parade proceeded as planned, as workers busily cleared snow from the parade route. For the first time, the First Lady accompanied her husband as they led the parade from the Capitol to the White House. The only parade known to have been canceled owing to bad weather was Ronald Regan's second in 1985, when frigid temperatures made the situation dangerous. The largest parade, with 73 bands, 59 floats, horses, elephants, and civilian and military vehicles, and lasting 4 hours and 32 minutes, occurred in 1953 at Dwight D. Eisenhower's first Inauguration. Today, the limit is set at 15,000 participants.

Women first participated in the Inaugural parade in 1917, at Wilson's second Inauguration. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride in the procession in an automobile. The parade was first televised in 1949, at the Inauguration of Harry S. Truman. Jimmy Carter broke precedent in 1977 by walking in the parade, from the Capitol to the White House, with his wife Rosalynn and their daughter Amy.
Today, the parade is organized by the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, and participants are selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Requests to participate in Inauguration Day events for marching bands, marching units, mounted units, and other performers are collected by the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

Source: http://inaugural.senate.gov/

9. **Inaugural Ball**

Above- U.S. Senate Collection: The Inauguration Ball: Arrival of the President's Party, March 4, 1873.

On May 7, 1789, one week after the Inauguration of George Washington in New York City, sponsors held a ball to honor the new President. It was not until 1809, however, after the Inauguration of James Madison at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., that the tradition of the Inaugural ball began. That night, First Lady Dolley Madison hosted the gala at Long's Hotel. Four hundred tickets sold for $4 each. In 1833 two balls were staged for President Andrew Jackson, one at Carusi's Assembly Rooms, and the other at Central Masonic Hall. William Henry Harrison attended all three of the 1841 Inaugural balls held in his honor.

The Inaugural ball quickly turned into an anticipated highlight of Washington society, and its location became a prime topic of discussion and angst. Organizers wanted a building that could accommodate large numbers of guests. A temporary wooden building was erected in the city's Judiciary Square in 1849 for one of Zachary Taylor's Inaugural balls. By the time of James Buchanan's Inauguration in 1857, the idea of multiple balls was abandoned for one grand ball that could accommodate thousands of guests. Again, a temporary ballroom was built in Judiciary Square for the occasion. Food purchased for Buchanan's ball included $3000 worth of wine, 400 gallons of oysters, 500 quarts of chicken salad, 1200 quarts of ice cream, 60 saddles of mutton, 8 rounds of beef, 75 hams, and 125 tongues.
In 1865, the ball following Lincoln's second Inauguration took place in the model room of the Patent Office—the first time a government building was used for the celebration. The Inaugural ball for Grant's 1869 Inauguration was held in the north wing of the Treasury Building. Apparently there was not enough room there for dancing, and a snafu in the checkroom forced many guests to leave without their coats and hats. So for Grant's 1873 Inauguration, a temporary building was again constructed in Judiciary Square.

Grant's second ball proved a disaster, however. The weather that night was freezing cold, and the temporary structure had no heat or insulation. Guests danced in their overcoats and hats, the food was cold, they ran out of coffee and hot chocolate, and even the caged decorative canaries froze.

Later Inaugural balls were held at the National Museum building (now the Smithsonian Arts and Industries building) and the Pension Building, which became the favorite venue from 1885 through 1909.

In 1913, the city's Inaugural organizers began planning the ball to celebrate Woodrow Wilson's Inauguration, again to be held at the Pension Building, but President-elect Wilson thought otherwise. He felt the ball was too expensive and unnecessary for the solemn occasion of the Inaugural, and asked the Inaugural committee to cancel it. The city of Washington had not missed an Inaugural ball since 1853, when a grieving President Franklin Pierce—mourning the recent loss of his son—asked that the ball be cancelled. Although some D.C. residents felt very disappointed by Wilson's request, others felt relieved. The Pension Building was often closed for over a week in preparation for the ball, causing the government's business there to shut down.

President-elect Warren G. Harding also requested that the Inaugural committee do away with the elaborate ball (and the parade as well) in 1921, hoping to set an example of thrift and simplicity. The committee complied, and instead, the chairman of the Inaugural ball committee hosted a huge private party at his home. Subsequent Inaugurations followed this trend, with charity balls becoming the fashion for the Inaugurations of Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

President Harry Truman revived the official ball in 1949. Organizers for Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 Inaugural ball added a second event due to the great demand for tickets. Four years later, Eisenhower's second Inauguration featured four balls. Kennedy attended five in 1961. President Carter attempted to strip the balls of their glitz and glamour in 1977, calling them parties and charging no more than $25 each, but by the 2nd inaugural of President William Jefferson Clinton in 1997, the number of balls reached an all-time high of fourteen. George W. Bush's inaugural in 2001 saw the number of official balls decline to eight, and his 2nd inaugural in 2005 was celebrated with nine official balls.
Today, the official Inaugural balls are planned by the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)

### Facts and Firsts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inauguration Date</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Facts and Firsts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 1789</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>First Inauguration; precedents set include the phrase, “So help me God,” and kissing the Bible after taking the oath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1793</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>First Inauguration in Philadelphia; delivered shortest Inaugural address at just 135 words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1797</td>
<td>John Adams</td>
<td>First to receive the oath of office from the Chief Justice of the United States.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1801</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>First Inauguration in Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>March 4, 1809</td>
<td>James Madison</td>
<td>Inauguration held in the House chamber of the Capitol; first Inaugural ball held that evening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1817</td>
<td>James Monroe</td>
<td>First President to take the oath of office and deliver the Inaugural address outdoors; ceremony took place on platform in front of the temporary Brick Capitol (where Supreme Court now stands).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 1821</td>
<td>James Monroe</td>
<td>March 4, 1821 fell on a Sunday, so Monroe's Inauguration occurred the next day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1829</td>
<td>Andrew Jackson</td>
<td>First President to take the oath of office on the east front portico of the U.S. Capitol.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1833</td>
<td>Andrew Jackson</td>
<td>Last time Chief Justice John Marshall administered the oath office; he presided over nine Inaugurations, from Adams to Jackson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1837</td>
<td>Martin Van Buren</td>
<td>First President who was not born a British subject; first time the President-elect and President rode to the Capitol for the Inauguration together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1841</td>
<td>William H. Harrison</td>
<td>First President to arrive in Washington by railroad; delivered the longest Inaugural address (8,445 words).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6, 1841</td>
<td>John Tyler</td>
<td>First Vice President to assume Presidency upon the death of the President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1845</td>
<td>James K. Polk</td>
<td>First Inauguration covered by telegraph; first known Inauguration featured in a newspaper illustration (<a href="http://www.newspaperarchive.com/">Illustrated London News</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1853</td>
<td>Franklin Pierce</td>
<td>Affirmed the oath of office rather than swear it; cancelled the Inaugural ball.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1857</td>
<td>James Buchanan</td>
<td>First Inauguration known to have been photographed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1861</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>Lincoln’s cavalry escort to the Capitol was heavily armed, providing unprecedented protection for the President-elect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1865</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>African-Americans participated in the Inaugural parade for the first time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1873</td>
<td>Ulysses S. Grant</td>
<td>Coldest March 4 Inauguration Day; the noon temperature was 16°F, with wind gusts up to 40 mph.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3, 1877</td>
<td>Rutherford B. Hayes</td>
<td>March 4, 1877 fell on Sunday, so Hayes took oath of office on Saturday, March 3 to ensure peaceful transition of power; public Inauguration on March 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1881</td>
<td>James Garfield</td>
<td>First President to review the Inaugural parade from a stand built in front of the White House.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1897</td>
<td>William McKinley</td>
<td>First Inaugural ceremony recorded by a motion picture camera; first President to have a glass-enclosed reviewing stand; first Inauguration at which Congress hosted a luncheon for the President and Vice President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1901</td>
<td>William McKinley</td>
<td>First time the U.S. House joined with the U.S. Senate, creating the JCCIC, to make Inaugural arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1909</td>
<td>William H. Taft</td>
<td>Inauguration took place in the Senate chamber because of blizzard; first time President's wife rode with President in the procession from the Capitol to the White House after Inauguration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1913</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>Inaugural ball was suspended for the first time since 1853.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 1917</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>First President to take the oath of office on Sunday; public Inauguration held on Monday, March 5, 1917; first time First Lady accompanied President both to and from the Capitol; first time women participated in the Inaugural parade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1921</td>
<td>Warren G. Harding</td>
<td>First President to ride to and from his Inauguration in an automobile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1925</td>
<td>Calvin Coolidge</td>
<td>First Inaugural ceremony broadcast nationally by radio; first time a former President (William Taft) administered the oath of office as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1929</td>
<td>Herbert Hoover</td>
<td>First Inaugural ceremony recorded by talking newsreel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 1933</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>RFD and Eleanor begin tradition of morning worship service by attending St. John's Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1937</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>First President Inaugurated on January 20th, a change made by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution; first time the Vice President was Inaugurated outdoors on the same platform with the President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1945</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>First and only President sworn in for a fourth term; had simple Inaugural ceremony at the White House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1949</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>First televised Inaugural ceremony; Truman reinstated the official Inaugural ball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1953</td>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower</td>
<td>Broke precedent by reciting his own prayer after taking the oath, rather than kissing the Bible; first time the JCCIC hosted the Inaugural luncheon at the Capitol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1961</td>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>First time a poet participated in the Inaugural program; first Catholic to become President of the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 1963</td>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson</td>
<td>First time a woman administered the oath of office (U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes swore in Johnson on Air Force One).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1969</td>
<td>Richard M. Nixon</td>
<td>Took the oath of office on two Bibles; both family heirlooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9, 1974</td>
<td>Gerald R. Ford</td>
<td>First unelected Vice President to become President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1981</td>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>First Inauguration held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 1985</td>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>January 20th fell on Sunday, so Reagan was privately sworn in that day at the White House; public Inauguration on January 21st took place in the Capitol Rotunda, due to freezing weather; coldest Inauguration day on record, with a noon temperature of 7°F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 1997</td>
<td>William J. Clinton</td>
<td>First Inaugural ceremony broadcast live on the Internet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://inaugural.senate.gov/](http://inaugural.senate.gov/)
2009 Inaugural Theme: “A New Birth of Freedom”

"A New Birth of Freedom" commemorates the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The words, echoing across 200 years from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, express Lincoln's hope that the sacrifice of those who died to preserve the United States would lead to "a new birth of freedom" for the nation.

**Abraham Lincoln**

Born Feb. 12, 1809 in Kentucky to, as he described them, parents of "undistinguished families," Lincoln’s was the first president born outside of the original 13 colonies. His family moved often, living in Kentucky, Indiana, and ultimately Illinois. Before becoming a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846, Lincoln ran a small store, served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, and practiced law.

**The Gettysburg Address**

President Lincoln was invited as the second speaker to give "a few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on Thurs., Nov. 19, 1863.

His speech, now known as The Gettysburg Address and considered to be one of the most quoted speeches in U.S. history, contained only 10 sentences and 272 words. Although two phrases from this short speech, "four score and seven years ago..." and "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people...", are more widely recognized, the lesser recognized "**this nation shall have a new birth of freedom**" is the cornerstone for the 2009 Inaugural theme.

As part of the visual imagery to convey the Inaugural theme, the JCCIC uses an image of the Hay draft of the speech. This draft is one of only five known written copies of the speech and was likely written shortly after Lincoln returned to Washington from Gettysburg.
The Lincoln Memorial

Since 1981 when the Inaugural swearing-in was moved to the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, each president-elect has faced westward where he has both the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial directly in his line of site, where two of Lincoln's speeches are carved into the walls of his Memorial: his first Inaugural address and the Gettysburg Address.

Another part of the visual imagery used to convey the Inaugural theme is an image of the sculpture of Lincoln in his memorial.

Theme Selection

The theme was chosen by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in consultation with the Senate Historian's Office. Inaugural themes are incorporated into the official Inaugural program, Inaugural Luncheon menu and decor.

Source:  http://inaugural.senate.gov/
Meet Our New President

Barack Obama:
The 44th President of the United States of America

aka Barack Hussein Obama, Jr. (1961-)

Barack Obama, the junior U. S. Senator from Illinois, is the first ever African–American to become the president-elect of the United States. On June 3, 2008, he gained enough delegates to be nominated by the Democratic Party at its national convention in August and on November 4, 2008, with 365 electoral votes and 66,882,230 of the popular vote, became the 44th President-Elect of the United States of America. He will be sworn in as President on January 20, 2008.

Barack Hussein Obama was born Aug. 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father, Barack Obama, Sr., was born of Luo ethnicity in Nyanza Province, Kenya. He grew up herding goats with his own father, who was a domestic servant to the British. Although reared among Muslims, Obama, Sr., became an atheist at some point.

Obama’s mother, Ann Dunham, grew up in Wichita, Kansas. Her father worked on oil rigs during the Depression. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he signed up for service in World War II and marched across Europe in Patton’s army. Dunham’s mother went to work on a bomber assembly line. After the war, they studied on the G. I. Bill, bought a house through the Federal Housing Program, and moved to Hawaii.

Meanwhile, Barack’s father had won a scholarship that allowed him to leave Kenya and pursue his academic dreams in Hawaii. At the time of his birth, Obama’s parents were students at the East–West Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Obama’s parents separated when he was two years old and later divorced. Obama’s father went to Harvard to pursue Ph. D. studies and then returned to Kenya.
His mother married Lolo Soetoro, another East–West Center student from Indonesia. In 1967, the family moved to Jakarta, where Obama’s half-sister Maya Soetoro–Ng was born. Obama attended schools in Jakarta, where classes were taught in the Indonesian language.

Four years later when Barack (commonly known throughout his early years as "Barry") was ten, he returned to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents, Madelyn and Stanley Dunham, and later his mother (who died of ovarian cancer in 1995).

He was enrolled in the fifth grade at the esteemed Punahou Academy, graduating with honors in 1979. He was only one of three black students at the school. This is where Obama first became conscious of racism and what it meant to be an African-American.

In his memoir, Obama described how he struggled to reconcile social perceptions of his multiracial heritage. He saw his biological father (who died in a car accident in 1982) only once (in 1971) after his parents divorced. And he admitted using alcohol, marijuana and cocaine during his teenage years.

After high school, Obama studied at Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years. He then transferred to Columbia University in New York, graduating in 1983 with a degree in political science.

After working at Business International Corporation (a company that provided international business information to corporate clients) and NYPIRG, Obama moved to Chicago in 1985. There, he worked as a community organizer with low-income residents in Chicago’s Roseland community and the Altgeld Gardens public housing development on the city’s South Side.

It was during this time that Obama, who said he "was not raised in a religious household," joined the Trinity United Church of Christ. He also visited relatives in Kenya, which included an emotional visit to the graves of his father and paternal grandfather.


After law school, Obama returned to Chicago to practice as a civil rights lawyer, joining the firm of Miner, Barnhill & Galland. He also taught at the University of Chicago Law School. And he helped organize voter registration drives during Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign.

Obama's advocacy work led him to run for the Illinois State Senate as a Democrat. He was elected in 1996 from the south side neighborhood of Hyde Park.

During these years, Obama worked with both Democrats and Republicans in drafting legislation on ethics, expanded health care services and early childhood education programs for the poor. He also created a state earned-income tax credit for the working poor. And after a number of inmates on death row were found innocent, Obama worked with law enforcement officials to require the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in all capital cases.

In 2000, Obama made an unsuccessful Democratic primary run for the U. S. House of Representatives seat held by four-term incumbent candidate Bobby Rush.

Following the 9/11 attacks, Obama was an early opponent of President George W. Bush's push to war with Iraq. Obama was still a state senator when he spoke against a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq during a rally at Chicago's Federal Plaza in October 2002.

"I am not opposed to all wars. I'm opposed to dumb wars," he said. "What I am opposed to is the cynical attempt by Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz and other arm-chair, weekend warriors in this Administration to shove their own ideological agendas down our throats, irrespective of the costs in lives lost and in hardships borne."

"He's a bad guy," Obama said, referring to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. "The world, and the Iraqi people, would be better off without him. But I also know that Saddam poses no imminent and direct threat to the United States, or to his neighbors, that the Iraqi economy is in shambles, that the Iraqi military a fraction of its former strength, and that in concert with the international community he can be contained until, in the way of all petty dictators, he falls away into the dustbin of history."

"I know that even a successful war against Iraq will require a U. S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences," Obama continued. "I know that an invasion of Iraq without a clear rationale and without strong international support will only fan the flames of the Middle East, and encourage the worst, rather than best, impulses of the Arab world, and strengthen the recruitment arm of al-Qaeda."
The war with Iraq began in 2003 and Obama decided to run for the U.S. Senate open seat vacated by Republican Peter Fitzgerald. In the 2004 Democratic primary, he won 52 percent of the vote, defeating multimillionaire businessman Blair Hull and Illinois Comptroller Daniel Hynes.

That summer, he was invited to deliver the keynote speech in support of John Kerry at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston. Obama emphasized the importance of unity, and made veiled jabs at the Bush administration and the diversionary use of wedge issues.

"We worship an awesome God in the blue states, and we don't like federal agents poking around our libraries in the red states," he said. "We coach Little League in the blue states, and yes, we've got some gay friends in the red states. There are patriots who opposed the war in Iraq, and there are patriots who supported the war in Iraq. We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the Stars and Stripes, all of us defending the United States of America."

After the convention, Obama returned to his U.S. Senate bid in Illinois. His opponent in the general election was supposed to be Republican primary winner Jack Ryan, a wealthy former investment banker. However, Ryan withdrew from the race in June 2004, following public disclosure of unsubstantiated sexual allegations by Ryan's ex-wife, actress Jeri Ryan.

In August 2004, diplomat and former presidential candidate Alan Keyes, who was also an African-American, accepted the Republican nomination to replace Ryan. In three televised debates, Obama and Keyes expressed opposing views on stem cell research, abortion, gun control, school vouchers and tax cuts.

In the November 2004 general election, Obama received 70% of the vote to Keyes's 27%, the largest electoral victory in Illinois history. Obama became only the third African-American elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction.

Sworn into office January 4, 2005, Obama partnered with Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana on a bill that expanded efforts to destroy weapons of mass destruction in Eastern Europe and Russia. Then with Republican Sen. Tom Corburn of Oklahoma, he created a website that tracks all federal spending.

Obama was also the first to raise the threat of avian flu on the Senate floor, spoke out for victims of Hurricane Katrina, pushed for alternative energy development and championed improved veterans' benefits. He also worked with Democrat Russ Feingold of Wisconsin to eliminate gifts of travel on corporate jets by lobbyists to members of Congress.

His second book, *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*, was published in October 2006.
In February 2007, Obama made headlines when he announced his candidacy for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination. He was locked in a tight battle of unprecedented length and campaign vigor with former first lady and current U.S. Senator from New York, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama met his wife, Michelle, in 1988 when he was a summer associate at the Chicago law firm of Sidley & Austin. They were married in October 1992 and live in Kenwood on Chicago's South Side with their daughters, Malia (born 1999) and Sasha (born 2001).

Meet Our New Vice-President

Joseph Biden:

The 47th Vice-President of the United States of America

aka Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. (1942-)

Joe Biden is the senior U.S. Senator from Delaware and was the vice presidential running mate of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama. On January 20, 2008 Joe Biden will be sworn in as the next Vice-President of the United States of America.

During their first and only vice presidential debate, Biden and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin squabbled over the economy, energy and Iraq while focusing most of their attacks on the candidates at the top of the tickets.

Biden repeatedly linked Republican presidential nominee John McCain to President George W. Bush. Palin painted Obama as "dangerous" on foreign policy. Both sought to claim the mantle of defender of the middle class.

"The economic policies of the last eight years have been the worst economic policies we've ever had," Biden said. He blamed the lagging economy on Bush and criticized McCain's plan to extend Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy.

Palin defended McCain, saying her experience as governor of Alaska showed that cutting taxes can spur the economy. She criticized Biden and Obama for backing tax increases and outlining billions in new spending, saying it's a "backwards way of trying to grow our economy."

The debate was held October 2, 2008, at Washington University in St. Louis. Neither candidate committed the kind of serious error that some pundits had predicted. Palin, who experienced uneven performances during some campaign interviews, delivered clear and folksy responses. And Biden avoided run-on speeches and gaffes that have gotten him into trouble in the past.
Born Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he is of Irish Catholic heritage. Biden was the first of four children born to Joe, Sr., a car salesman, and Jean Biden. He was raised in Scranton and moved to New Castle County, Delaware, at age ten.

Biden, who overcame an embarrassing stutter, attended Archmere Academy in Claymont, Delaware, a Catholic prep school. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 1965 and a law degree from Syracuse University in New York in 1968.

After graduating from law school, he returned to Delaware to work as a trial attorney at a law firm in Wilmington, serving as a public defender. He quickly turned to politics, serving on the New Castle county council from 1970 to 1972.

Biden was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 at the age of 29, becoming the fifth youngest senator in history. He narrowly defeated two-term incumbent Republican James Caleb "Cale" Boggs. Biden went on to win re-election five times with at least 58 percent of the vote and became Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Biden married Neilia Hunter in 1966. Shortly after he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972, his wife and infant daughter, Naomi (born 1971), died in a car accident while Christmas shopping. His two young sons, Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III (born in 1969); and Robert Hunter (born in 1970), were seriously injured, but eventually recovered. Biden was sworn into office from their bedside in January 1973.

Biden thought about resigning to take care of his shattered family, but instead began commuting three-hours round trip each day on the train from his home in the Wilmington suburbs to Washington, D.C., a practice he continues to this day.

In 1977, Biden married Jill Tracy Jacobs, a schoolteacher. They have one daughter, Ashley (born 1981). The Bidens have five grandchildren.

As a senator, Biden focused on foreign relations, criminal justice, and drug policy. Since 1975, he has served on the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, twice as its chair (2001; 2001-03; 2007-present).

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee between 1987 and 1995, he led the opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court nominations of conservatives Robert H. Bork, who was defeated, and Clarence Thomas, who was later confirmed.

Biden has repeatedly voted against "partial birth abortion," a late-term-pregnancy procedure and has opposed public funding of abortion. Biden supports federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.
Biden considers the Violence Against Women Act his most significant piece of legislation during his Senate tenure. He says domestic violence has dropped by almost 50% since it was passed in 1994.

Biden also was a member of the International Narcotics Control Caucus and was the lead senator in writing the law that established the office of Drug Czar, a position that oversees the national drug-control policy.

On the foreign policy front, Biden was particularly outspoken on issues related to the Kosovo conflict of the late '90s, urging U.S. action against Serbian forces to protect Kosovars against an offensive by Serbian Pres. Slobodan Milosevic.

Biden voted for the final U.S. Senate resolution authorizing the invasion of Iraq, but became a persistent critic of the Bush administration's policies there. He later proposed a partition plan as a way to maintain a united, peaceful Iraq.

Biden also has a personal stake in the outcome in Iraq. His son, Beau, is Attorney General of Delaware and a member of the Delaware Army National Guard, serving as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's office. He was deployed to Iraq on October 3, 2008, one day after his father participated in the only vice-presidential debate.

Biden became an adjunct professor at the Wilmington, Del., branch of the Widener University School of Law in 1991.

In 2007, Biden published his memoir, Promises to Keep: On Life and Politics.

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Student Learning Activities
(Based on the information provided in this instructional packet)

History of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:
Pass out the information from the section of this packet titled: “History of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.” Read the section together as a class using “jump-in” reading. Have students work in pairs to develop a timeline, based on the information they read, about the history of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC).

Platform History- Where the President Stands: Read the short section from this packet titled: “Platform History- Where the President Stands” to your class aloud. Assign students to design their own “Presidential Inauguration Platform” keeping in mind security issues and all the different groups of people that require seating on or near the platform. Have students draw a diagram of their platform design, label it, and write an explanation of why they designed it in the manner in which they did.

Presidential Swearing In Jigsaw Lesson: Pass out the information (Parts 1-6) of the section of this packet titled: “Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony: Parts 1-6.” Divide your class into groups of 6 students each. Assign each student in each group to read one of the steps described in this section. Have the students keep a list of facts and ideas in bullet format that they learned from reading their assigned section. Next, have all the students who read Part 1, for example, meet together and share information they have learned. Group the rest of the students accordingly for the remaining parts of this section and have them share information learned as well. Next, have the students report back to their original groups and teach what they have learned to their group. Finally, as a whole class, ask for student volunteers from each part of this section to share what they have learned for the whole class to hear.

2009 Inaugural Theme: “A New Birth of Freedom:” Read the section of this packet titled: “2009 Inaugural Theme: A New Birth of Freedom” with your class. Explain to the students the importance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Based on the theme “A New Birth of Freedom,” have students write an original rap, poem, song, or story that would be appropriate to commemorate the 2009 Presidential Inauguration and the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Meet Our New President: Barack Obama: Pass out the section of this packet titled: “Meet Our New President: Barack Obama.” Have students create a K-W-L Chart about what they know about Barack Obama, and what they would like to know about him. Read the information from the biography using the “jump-in” reading method. Have students complete the final column of the K-W-L Chart filling in what they learned about Barack Obama based on the biography provided.
Meet Our New Vice-President: Joseph Biden: Pass out the section of this packet titled: “Meet Our New Vice-President: Joseph Biden.” Have students create a K-W-L Chart about what they know about Joe Biden, and what they would like to know about him. Read the information from the biography using the “jump-in” reading method. Have students complete the final column of the K-W-L Chart filling in what they learned about Joe Biden based on the biography provided.

Inaugural Lunch Menu: Read the section of this packet to your class titled: “Inaugural Luncheon.” Remind students that it has been a tradition to serve typical food and dishes from the new president’s home state during this luncheon. Have students conduct research about the food from Illinois and design and create a menu for the Inaugural Luncheon based on food typical to the state of Illinois.

Facts and Firsts: Share the chart in this packet titled: “Facts and Firsts” with your students. Have students make predictions about what “Facts and Firsts” will be added due to Barack Obama’s presidency. Have students create their own list and then share with a partner. You may want to give students time to do Internet research for this activity for home learning. Finally, ask student volunteers to share what is on their list with the entire class and ask them to compare and contrast their list of predictions about Obama’s future presidency with information learned from the chart.

Inaugural Activities: Have students read the information from the following sections of this packet: “Morning Worship,” “Procession to the Capital,” “Vice-Presidential Swearing-In,” “Inaugural Parade,” and “Inaugural Ball.” You can assign different students in your class to read different sections and share what they have learned with the whole class about their assigned topic accordingly. For home learning, have students conduct research about the activities that are planned for “Morning Worship,” the “Procession to the Capital,” the “Inaugural Parade,” and the “Inaugural Ball” for President-elect Obama’s inauguration ceremonies. Have students share what they learned in class from their research. Finally, have students compare and contrast the activities planned for Obama’s inauguration with that of other presidents using information found in this packet. Students may want to create a Venn Diagram accordingly to visually display their comparisons.

Inaugural Address: Have students listen to Barack Obama’s inaugural address on Election Day by either watching it live during class or finding the clip on the Internet for homework. Instruct them to make a list of topics and ideas that Obama delivers during his inaugural speech. Have them research on the Internet to find a speech of a past president who was president during war time as well and either listen to the clip or read the text of the speech. Instruct the students to compare and contrast Obama’s inaugural speech with that of the president who they chose to research. Inform the students that they should be
prepared to share their comparisons and findings during the next meeting of your class.

**Research Activity:** President Barack Obama’s campaign focused on the need for change. Research Obama’s call for change as it relates to issues such as the economy, health care, energy, foreign policy, national defense, etc. **Play the role of Barack Obama** and write a one-two page speech or newspaper editorial outlining your vision for the change that needs to occur during your presidency. In the speech or editorial, also discuss your feelings about being elected the first African American president in our nation’s history.
President Obama’s Inaugural Address:

Student Reporting Form and Questions

Directions: Listen to President Obama’s inaugural address and answer the questions below.

1. In the address to the nation, list 3 quotes or statements made by President Obama that you found most interesting or important. Explain why you feel each statement is significant.

   Quote or Statement #1
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

   Significance of the quote or statement:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

   Quote or Statement #2
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

   Significance of the quote or statement:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
2. List 3 issues that President Obama addressed in his speech to the nation. The issues may include the economy, health care, energy, national defense, foreign policy, etc. Describe how he proposes to address the 3 issues during his presidency.

Issue #1:_________________________________________________________
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Issue #2:_________________________________________________________
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3. After listening to President Obama’s inaugural address, describe your personal reaction to the speech. (Consider the following as you write your reaction: What was the theme of the address? Was the speech inspiring or motivational? What portions of the speech were most important? Why? Did the speech address the issues you feel are most important? Was the speech memorable?)
Social Studies Reading and Writing Activity Directions: Have students read the following article titled “Moving the Obamas into the White House” and answer the questions that follow.

President Obama: The Significance of the Moment

By: Sam Stein of the Huffington Post (An online Internet newspaper). November 5, 2008.

Nearly two years after he announced his intentions to run for the White House, Barack Obama returned to Chicago on Tuesday night (November 4, 2008 election night), triumphant in his quest for the presidency.

The president-elect -- the first African American to assume the post in American history -- achieved the task with a mandate to proclaim. As of Wednesday morning he had won 349 Electoral College votes, poaching traditionally Republicans states like Indiana and Virginia as well as bitterly-fought battlegrounds like Ohio and Florida. Of the estimated 133 million votes cast (62 percent of eligible voters went to the polls), he had received 52 percent to John McCain's 46 percent -- the first Democrat to earn a majority since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

More importantly, he recruited to his candidacy voters of all stripes: black, white, and Hispanic, southerners and northerners, educated and non-educated, the politically engaged and those who had previously stayed on the sidelines.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," Obama triumphantly declared. "It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen; by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the very first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different; that their voice could be that difference."

Democrats, after eight years of frustrations and ideological setbacks during the Bush years, where given the permission to peak at the road ahead. What would this mean for Iraq? For global warming? For America's image around the world?

Obama, too, was making plans for the future. Not content to be caught flat-footed, he offered the post of White House Chief of Staff to Rep. Rahm Emanuel. Similar preparations were being made for other cabinet positions. His campaign had been a well-oiled machine; his transition promised to operate the same way.

But the numbers and the process told only half the story, and the drier half at that.
Obama's victory was, at once, sweeping and historic. An African American man, one generation removed from the height of civil rights tensions, had ascended to the White House. Only a few years in the Senate, he had defeated a decorated war hero and, before that, the wife of a former president, by revolutionizing the way a politician relates to the public.

For Republicans even, it was hard to deny the emotional symbolism of it all. In a gracious concession speech, Sen. John McCain offered his admiration to his future president for "inspiring the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had so little at stake or little influence in the election of an American president."

"This is an historic election and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans," he added. "And for the special prize that must be theirs tonight. I always believe that America offers opportunities to all who have the industry and will to seize it."

Speaking to reporter the following morning, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice seemed genuinely moved by the events. The United States, she said, "continues to surprise. It continues to renew itself, to beat all odds and expectations. You know Americans will not be satisfied until they form that more perfect union."

Stalwarts of the African-American political community were affected as well. Rep. John Lewis called the Obama win a non-violent revolution. Rep. James Clyburn remarked that he would now be able to tell school children with conviction that they can be whatever they want in life.

And so, Obama enters the White House with a different type of mandate than presidents past: one that is as based as much on an emotional connection to voters and colleagues as it is on political influence. To be sure, he has plenty of the latter: Accompanying last night's (November 4, 2008 election night) win were the gains that Democrats made in congressional elections. On January 20, President Obama will have approximately 56 Democratic Senators and more than 250 Democratic members of the House of Representatives with whom he can craft a legislative agenda.

The challenges, even with the deck stacked this way, will be daunting: an economy that is in deep crisis, wars waging in two hot spots in the Middle East, state budgets that are crumbling, and a health care system bursting at the seams. Obama, for his part, seems to understand the enormity of the task ahead.

"There will be setbacks and false starts," he told the crowd last night. "There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as President, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And above all, I will ask you join in the work of remaking this nation the
only way it's been done in America for two-hundred and twenty-one years - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand."

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/11/05/the-significance-of-presi_n_141427.html

1. Which of the following would be another good title for this article?

   A) President-Elect Obama: Insignificant to History
   B) President Obama: An Historic Election
   C) President-Elect Obama: Thanking His Supporters
   D) President Obama: Picks Some of His Cabinet

2. What does the author mean by stating:

   “But the numbers and the process told only half the story, and the drier half at that.”?

   A) That the statistics from the election are only part of the story; the more interesting part of Obama’s story rests in the fact that he is the first African-American to be elected to the Presidency
   B) That the statistics and number of votes that Obama won tell the most interesting part of Obama’s election to the Presidency
   C) That the manner in which Obama won his Presidential election campaign is the most important part of the story; race is an uninteresting and insignificant part of the story.
   D) That the most interesting part of the story of how Obama won the presidency lies in the fact that many different types of Americans votes for him

3. Which of the following are mentioned in the article as “daunting challenges” that Obama will face as President?

   A) Famine and genocide in Africa
   B) The economy and two wars in the Middle East
   C) Race relations in the United States
   D) A Democratic-controlled Congress
4. Which of the following statements from the article **BEST** supports the idea that John McCain recognized the historical importance of Obama’s victory?

A) Sen. John McCain offered his admiration to his future president for "inspiring the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had so little at stake or little influence in the election of an American president."

B) Obama's victory was, at once, sweeping and historic. An African American man, one generation removed from the height of civil rights tensions, had ascended to the White House.

C) "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer…"

D) "This is an historic election and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans, and for the special prize that must be theirs tonight. I always believe that America offers opportunities to all who have the industry and will to seize it."
Read, Think, Explain:

5. Using details and information found in the article, answer the following question:

What evidence is provided in the article that Obama realizes the difficult job that awaits him as President of the United States?

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Answers to Multiple Choice Questions Above:

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. Answers will vary but should include details and information found in the article.
WASHINGTON -- The moving trucks show up when the country's attention is distracted, focused on the pomp of Inauguration Day.

In splendid synchronization, one set of trucks rolls onto the White House grounds at precisely noon, another set rolls out -- with the move all done quietly and blazingly fast in the few hours it takes to do the swearing-in of a new president and the traditional after-luncheoning.

Bushes out of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Obamas in.

Barack and Michelle, Sasha and Malia.

Their beds will be made up and waiting for them before they return from the parties.

"It's very efficient," says Ann Stock, former social secretary to Hillary Clinton and now a Kennedy Center vice-president.

But so much to do first.

The girls, 7 and 10, will need schools. A church could be selected. And a puppy -- Daddy promised -- must be found. Much of establishing this new life will fall to lawyer and hospital executive Michelle Obama, the first-lady-in-waiting who calls herself "mom in chief."

So many little choices, writ big -- massive, gargantuan -- because a nation will be watching, keyed minutely to every symbolic overtone, mulling the message behind every move.

"It's like a new neighbor in the neighborhood. You want to know, 'What do they do after work? Where do they go to church? Do they eat grilled cheese for lunch?' " says Washington event planner and longtime social observer Carolyn Peachey."It's just that in this case, it's the nation's neighborhood."

Barack Obama has been in the Senate not quite four years, and for 21 months of that time he has been running for president, so he is no creature of social Washington. The Obamas are said to be close to former Clinton adviser Vernon
Jordan and his wife, Ann. But the family's network of close friends is primarily in Chicago, where the Obamas live in the same Hyde Park neighborhood as Michelle Obama's mother. Sasha and Malia go to school in their neighborhood.

All of which makes the guessing game more intense; there are fewer clues.

And the lobbying has begun: some Obama confidants have even written memos to make their case, insiders say.

One power player wants the girls at Sidwell Friends School -- after all, Chelsea Clinton went there, and so did Richard Nixon's daughters and Bill Nye the Science Guy, if you care about that sort of thing. Vice-President-elect Joe Biden's granddaughters go to Sidwell now. Vice-President Al Gore's daughters went to National Cathedral School; young Albert III went to St. Albans.

Obama foreign policy adviser Susan Rice favors private Maret School, while close adviser and rumored attorney general shortlister Eric Holder is a trustee at private Georgetown Day School.

But the symbolism: private school? Public school? Dad, it's worth noting, has talked a lot about buffing up public education during his campaign. Fair warning: Back when Bill and Hillary Clinton chose Sidwell, Newsweek columnist Eleanor Clift called them "limousine liberals."

There's a public school near their new neighborhood. According to the District's public school boundaries list, someone who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. would send their kids to Francis-Stevens Educational Center in Foggy Bottom. Convenient, at a minimum. Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy, went to Stevens when it was a stand-alone elementary school and later attended Hardy Middle School.

It's a lot to consider. And the Obamas have been kind of busy the past few weeks, or months, or years.

"It's literally just getting started," said a senior aide. "Their world is built around their daughters, so they're taking this very seriously."

Where to attend church could be even touchier. The family's membership at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago nearly turned into a deal-killer during the Democratic primaries when inflammatory remarks by the church's pastor and Barack Obama mentor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, surfaced. The Obamas withdrew from the church.

So much for Sunday mornings. But what about Saturday nights?

Juleanna Glover, who throws a lot of parties, figures the White House may keep a later schedule than it has during these early-to-bed days of President Bush.
Parties will probably begin, she said, "after homework and after the kids have been put to bed."

The Obamas won't go at it alone, of course.

The White House comes with an executive chef, a cooking and wait staff, and a full-blown medical unit staffed with Navy doctors. The unit conforms to the needs of the family, so a pediatrician can be added. Ten to 14 doctors sign off on a checkup of President Bush, says Assistant Press Secretary Carlton Carroll.

The General Services Administration and the White House usher's office handles pesky matters like lining up plumbers, electricians and other fix-it folks. A carpentry shop is on the premises, too.

Dry cleaning? A personal valet makes those arrangements for the president. The first lady's staff will see to it for the rest of the family.

Getting the family situated will be Michelle Obama's first priority, the aide said, but there will also be time for other passions, including bringing more attention to U.S. military families.

She's talked in the past about bringing her husband back down to earth when all around him seemed mesmerized by his fast trajectory. In the early days of his campaign -- when some were sniffing about a "God complex" -- it was Michelle Obama who told the world that her husband was so "snorey and stinky" in the morning that Sasha and Malia wouldn't even crawl into bed with them.

As she and her husband and their girls make the transition toward becoming the nation's first family in January, she'll have to emphasize that part of her role even more.

The moving vans will come, and the aides and appurtenances of the position will ease the challenges of being the world's most scrutinized family.

But the key decisions of making a new life at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. can't be outsourced.

Source:  http://www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/story.html?id=0e82af0-c5fd-4a4a-9f3f-d7eb1f38bbf2
1. Read the following excerpt from the article:
“In splendid synchronization, one set of trucks rolls onto the White House grounds at precisely noon, another set rolls out.”

What does the word synchronization mean in the excerpt above?

A) To exit at the same time
B) To occur at the same time
C) To drive at the same time
D) To exit at different times

2. What is the main idea of this article?

A) To provide a summary of the issues that are facing the Obama family as they prepare to move into the White House
B) To provide a summary of the issues that are facing the Bush family as they prepare to leave the White House
C) To provide a summary of options that Obama’s daughters have regarding their education
D) To provide a list of duties that Michelle Obama will assume as the new First Lady

3. Read the following excerpt from the article:
"It's like a new neighbor in the neighborhood. You want to know, 'What do they do after work? Where do they go to church? Do they eat grilled cheese for lunch?' " says Washington event planner and longtime social observer Carolyn Peachey."It's just that in this case, it's the nation's neighborhood."

What was the author's purpose in including this information?

A) To emphasize that Americans care deeply about what type of sandwich the Obama family likes to eat
B) To emphasize that even though the Obamas will become the “First Family,” they still will have things to do after work
C) To emphasize that the public will be very curious about several aspects of the new “First Family’s” life
D) To emphasize the many responsibilities that Carolyn Peachey will have when the Obamas move in the White House
4. According to the article, what White House office handles matters concerning plumbing, electricity, and other miscellaneous “fix it” item in the White House?

A) The Chief of Staff
B) The First Lady’s Staff
C) The White House Electrical and Plumbing Department
D) The General Services Administration and the White House Usher’s Office

Read, Think, Explain:

5. Using details and information found in the article, answer the following question:

Why is the education of Sasha and Malia Obama an important issue?

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Answers to Multiple Choice Questions Above:

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. Answers will vary but should include details and information found in the article.
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and programs/activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

**Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

**Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA)**, as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

**The Equal Pay Act of 1963**, as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

**The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA)** - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.


**Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA)** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

**Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992** - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

**School Board Rules 6Gx13-4A-1.01, 6Gx13-4A-1.32, and 6Gx13-5D-1.10** - prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against a student or employee on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, sexual orientation, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, or disability.

*Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.*

Revised 5/9/03