

Name: _____



On January 20, we will **inaugurate** a **new** president. It is a **great** day!

The Constitution begins with the phrase

“We the people of the United States...”

Why do you think it is important for the Constitution to

be from the people? If you were president, what would you do to find out what the people wanted you to do? Be specific and descriptive in your answer.

The president takes an oath to “**preserve, PROTECT and defend** the Constitution of the United States.”



Do you think it is important for the president to take an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution? Why or why not?

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The **Great Seal of the United States** has an eagle on it.

What does the eagle symbolize to **you**? Do you think it is a good symbol for our country?



If **you** had to design a **second Great Seal of the United States**, what kind of bird or animal would you put on it and why?



Draw your new Great Seal here:



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What Happens on Inauguration Day?

When a new president takes office, there is an inauguration. There is a formal ceremony. The new president and vice president take the oath of office. It takes place on the first day of the new president's term. That day is January 20. After the swearing-in, there is a parade. That night, there are balls for the new president to attend. If January 20 falls on a Sunday, the new president is sworn in on that day. The public celebrations will be the next day.



The new president and vice president each take an oath. The swearing-in ceremony usually is held on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Each person's oath is special. The vice president goes first. He swears to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" and to carry out the duties of the office. A band plays the song, "Hail, Columbia." This song was composed for the inauguration of George Washington in 1789.

At noon, the new president takes his oath. He swears that he will "faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." The band plays "Hail to the Chief." There is a 21-gun salute. Then the new president gives his inaugural address. This is a speech that sets the tone for the next four years.

The former president and vice president and their wives leave the Capitol. The new vice president escorts the outgoing vice president and his wife. They pass through a military cordon. This is two lines of military soldiers. The new president escorts the outgoing president and his wife. Since 1977, the outgoing president and First Lady have left in a military helicopter. Then the new president and vice president return to the Capitol.

They are guests of honor at lunch with all the members of Congress. Then the new president and vice president leave the Capitol. They travel from the Capitol down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. They usually walk at least part of the way. Crowds of people line the street to see them. They are followed by a parade. The parade includes marching military regiments. There are citizens' groups who march, too. There are floats and marching bands. The president and vice president watch the rest of the parade. They will sit in a reviewing stand built especially for the inaugural parade in front of the White House. Their wives and special guests also sit in the reviewing stand.

That evening, the new president and vice president will attend the inaugural balls. A ball is a formal dance. Since 1953, there has been more than one official inaugural ball. Each president since then has had various numbers of balls held in his honor. In 1997, there were fourteen! In fact, there will be many balls and galas beginning five days before and ending five days after Inauguration Day.

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Of course, inauguration is different if the former president has died in office. In 1963, President John Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas. Vice President Lyndon Johnson was sworn-in some two hours later on Air Force One, the president's plane. Presidents are usually sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Instead, Johnson was sworn in by Judge Sarah Hughes, a family friend.

In 1974, President Nixon resigned from office. He resigned to avoid being impeached. Impeachment might have led to his removal from office. Gerald Ford became the new president. Ford was never elected either president or vice president! His swearing-in ceremony took place in the East Room of the White House.

Inaugural ceremonies have taken place for the president of the United States for more than two hundred years. Our nation celebrates the change of leadership based on our democratic system of government. The leadership of our country passes- peacefully- from one person to another. It is, indeed, something to celebrate!

What Happens on Inauguration Day?

Questions

- _____ 1. When does inauguration take place in the U.S.?
- A. January 20
 - B. the first day of the new president's term of office
 - C. both A and B
2. What happens if January 20 falls on a Sunday?
- _____
- _____
- _____ 3. What happens at the inaugural swearing-in ceremony?
- A. The new president leads a parade.
 - B. The outgoing president and vice president leave Washington, D.C.
 - C. The new president attends a dance.
 - D. The president and vice president take the oath of office.
- _____ 4. "Hail, Columbia" is played after the president takes the oath of office.
- A. false
 - B. true
- _____ 5. Where is the swearing-in ceremony usually held?
- A. in the East Room of the White House
 - B. on Air Force One
 - C. on the steps of the U.S. Capitol
 - D. on the steps of the White House

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- _____ 6. Which of these is NOT a part of the usual inauguration?
- A. a ceremony on Air Force One
 - B. dances
 - C. lunch with Congress
 - D. taking the oath of office
 - E. inaugural address
 - F. a parade
- _____ 7. Which president was never elected as either president or vice president?
- A. Richard Nixon
 - B. John Kennedy
 - C. Gerald Ford
 - D. Lyndon Johnson
- _____ 8. Which president resigned from office?
- A. Lyndon Johnson
 - B. Gerald Ford
 - C. Richard Nixon
 - D. John Kennedy
- _____ 9. Which president was NOT sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
- A. John Kennedy
 - B. Lyndon Johnson
 - C. Richard Nixon
 - D. Gerald Ford
- _____ 10. In recent years, the former president and First Lady leave the Capitol by what means of transportation?
- A. Air Force One
 - B. a military helicopter
 - C. a military cordon
 - D. none of the above

It was 80 degrees outside.
What would the
temperature be if it got 30
degrees colder?

What is 50% of 1,620?

The perimeter of a
rectangle is 18 cm. The
longer side is 6 cm. How
long is the shorter side?

The radius of a circle is 338
cm. What is the diameter
of this circle?

Write the missing family
fact.
 $4 \times 15 = 60$
 $60 \div 4 = 15$
 $15 \times 4 = 60$

Know how many inches in
a foot? Okay, smarty pants,
how many inches in 6 feet?

☐ In your own words, describe a "normal" Inauguration Day. Give as many details as possible.

☐ Do you believe that the inauguration of a new president should be simpler or should include even more celebrations? Explain why you think so.

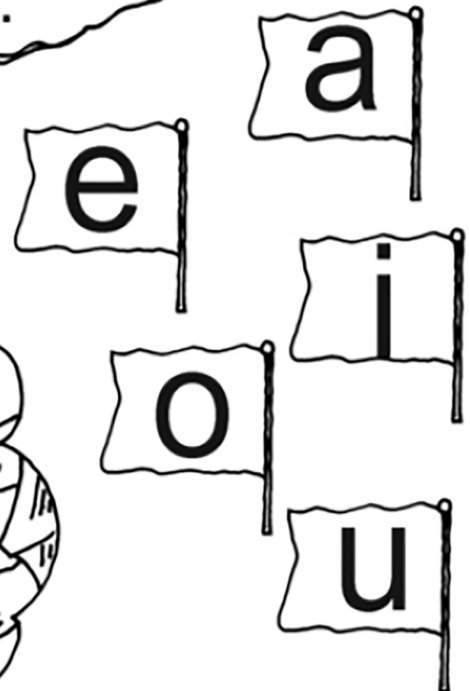
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Official Oath

At their inauguration, all new Presidents take an oath. It is a promise to do their job right. Read it after adding the missing vowels (on the flags).

"I d□ s□l□mnly sw□□r
(□r □ff□rm) th□t I w□ll f□□thf□lly
□x□c□t□ th□ Off□c□ □f Pr□s□d□nt □f
th□ Un□t□d St□t□s, □nd w□ll t□ th□ b□st
□f my □b□l□ty pr□s□rv□, pr□t□ct □nd
d□f□nd th□ C□nst□t□t□□n □f th□
Un□t□d St□t□s."



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The Celebration Continues

Caption: President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush lead the Inaugural Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House after taking the oath of office during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol for his second term. Source White House



The day that a newly elected president is inaugurated is celebrated by many people around the world. Most watch the events on TV from the comfort of their own homes. Many people travel to Washington, D.C., to witness the historic event firsthand.

The day is packed full of traditions, old and new. Most newly elected presidents and vice presidents begin their day with a worship service of their choice. From there they travel to the White House to meet with the current president and vice president of the United States. Everyone then travels together to the Capitol Building for the swearing-in ceremony. The oath of office is given at noon and the elected president officially becomes the president of the United States. The new president gives an inaugural address. This is a speech where the president shares his goals with the American people.

A luncheon is held after the swearing-in ceremony. This tradition began in 1897. The new president and vice president attend along with their families. Over the years, the guest list has grown to include thousands of people. There is always a theme to the luncheon. It usually has something to do with the home state of the new president. The time is filled with food, speeches, and gifts.

After the luncheon, the presidential group attends a parade. They watch the parade from a specially built reviewing stand. This tradition began with George Washington. George Washington traveled from Mount Vernon to New York City. Many groups joined him as he made his journey to the government building. By the time he reached his destination, he had the army, government officials, members of Congress, and many citizens with him.

The first organized parade occurred in 1809. James Madison had just become president. In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was re-elected president. That parade was the first to include African Americans. In 1917, women were included in the parade for the first time.

One of the most popular events of the celebration is the Inaugural Ball. In 1809, the ball was made a tradition. First Lady Dolley Madison hosted the event. Tickets were sold for four dollars. Over the years, the event has become more elaborate. President Carter tried to downplay the event by calling them parties, not balls. At his inauguration, the tickets cost just twenty-five dollars compared to the high amounts of others that had taken place in previous years. President Clinton had fourteen different celebration balls.

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This well-planned day is full of celebration and tradition. It is a time that the new president takes his place in the White House. The former president says good-bye. The American people look ahead to a new beginning.

The Celebration Continues

Questions

- _____ 1. The first half of Inauguration Day includes _____.
A. a worship service
B. a meeting at the White House
C. the swearing-in ceremony and inaugural address
D. all of the above

- _____ 2. The first inaugural luncheon was held in 1897.
A. false
B. true

3. Describe the unofficial inaugural parade for George Washington.

- _____ 4. Abraham Lincoln's inaugural parade included what group for the first time?
A. African Americans
B. the mounted police
C. women
D. the Shriners

5. Who hosted the first Inaugural Ball in 1809?

6. Where does the swearing-in ceremony take place?

☐ Inauguration Day is packed full of exciting events. Imagine that you are a reporter covering the event. Write an article reporting your experience.

☐ What is your opinion about the Inauguration Day events? Do you believe that the day should be celebrated in this way? Write an editorial expressing your opinion.

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