



A Case Study of Presidential Inaugurations: Kennedy and Obama

Purpose: Beginning with the inauguration of Washington in 1790, Presidential inaugurations have reflected the style and times of our elected leaders. Students will examine the inaugurations of past presidents in an effort to determine how those ceremonies reflected their values. Students will research the events, style and substance of John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961 and President Obama's inauguration in 2009 in order to make comparisons and contrasts between the events.

Objectives:

1. *Students will identify the essential elements of the *inauguration* ceremony in order to determine the extent to which a President-elect can personalize his induction into office.
2. Students will analyze quotes from inauguration speeches in order to establish the importance of a political speech in setting the tone for a term of office.
3. *Students will examine inaugural celebrations of John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama in order to determine the extent to which the celebrations reflect the style and values of the President.

*- indicates an activity appropriate for middle level students.

Key Words:

20th Amendment
lame duck

affirm
oath of office

inauguration

Materials:

1. Overhead with copy of *George Washington: The First Inauguration*
2. Article, *From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition*. Weaver, Warren. *The New York Times*, 1989. (Versions A and *B)
3. Additional Resources, *Inauguration Ceremonies*
4. Student handout: *Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage*
5. Student handout: *John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address*- You can watch the address via YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLmiOEK59n8>
6. Graphic organizer: *Presidential Inaugurations: 1961 and 2009: Style and Substance*
7. Graphic organizer: *Venn Diagram: Inaugurations of 1961 and 2009*
8. Student assessment: *Presidential Inaugurations 1961 and 2009: Making a Statement* (Forms A and *B)

Procedure:

1. Warm-up: Ask students to respond to the fact that the Federalists wanted George Washington to wear a gold suit to his inauguration. They also wanted him to wear

Laurel leaves in his hair and arrive at the ceremony riding white horses. Instead, Washington arrived in a brown suit made of “homespun clothe” with brass buttons riding a cream colored horse.

- What image were the Federalists trying to project by asking Washington to wear a gold suit and arrive on a white horse?
 - *What type of person would wear a suit of gold and ride a white horse?
 - *Why do you think Washington chose to wear an American made suit?
 - Why do you think Washington made the choices he did regarding his attire for the inauguration? What was he trying to say about his term as President?
2. *Inform students that Washington set the precedent for future inaugurations with his 1790 celebration. Project the transparency, ***George Washington: The First Inauguration*** and have the students discuss the importance of decisions Washington made regarding the inauguration ceremony.
 - Washington wanted his inauguration out-of-doors so that more people could view the proceedings.
 - Washington added, “So help me God” to the official **Oath of Office** found in Article II, Section I of the Constitution.
 - Washington kissed the Bible.
 - He used fireworks to celebrate his inauguration.
 - He had an inaugural ball in May of 1790 to celebrate his inauguration.
 3. * Have the students read, ***From George Washington to George Bush, Speeches and Parades, Dances and Tradition.*** (Weaver, Warren. *The New York Times*, 1989.) Two versions are provided to accommodate for varying reading levels. Students should read the article and answer the questions included with the reading. Additional resources are provided to supplement this part of the lesson such as inaugural songs, poems, illustrations and photographs.
 4. As a transition, ask students to comment on the following question:
William J. Clinton was the first President to have his inauguration ceremony broadcast over the internet.
 - How has technology increased the abilities of Americans to participate in the inaugural process?
 - To what extent does the inaugural ceremony reflect the style and values of the new administration?
 5. Inaugural addresses are an important addition to the ceremony. It is the first time that the President-elect has the opportunity to address the American people. Discuss the importance of inaugural speeches by distributing, ***Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage.*** Students should evaluate the impact of inaugural addresses and their importance in setting the tone for the President’s term of office.
 6. * Using the graphic organizer, ***Presidential Inaugurations 1961 and 2009: Style and Substance*** direct the students to research the inaugurations of Presidents Kennedy and Obama. The graphic organizer will help students to focus on their conclusions. The following resources can help students in their investigation of inaugurations:



- Library of Congress- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html>
 - White House.org- www.whitehousehistory.org/03/subs/03_a.html
 - Modern Inaugurations/ Addresses, etc.- www.presidentsusa.net/inauguration.html
 - PBS Newshour- www.pbs.org/newshour/inaugural97/historians_1-20.html
 - Avalon Project- www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/inaug
 - History Matters- <http://historymatters.gmu.edu>
 - National Archives- www.archives.gov
7. Ask the students to assess the extent to which a Presidential inauguration can predict the style and values of the President's tenure. Pass out the student resource, ***Presidential Inauguration 1961 and 2009: Making a Statement***. Students are asked to reflect on their investigation of Presidential inaugurations throughout history and comment on the upcoming inauguration to determine what impact, if any, the choice of inaugural activities will have on the style of the Obama administration.

George Washington: First Presidential Inauguration

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

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



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

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



Version A

www.washingtonpost.com

January 21, 1989

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

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

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

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

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

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



trousers. In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt, an apostle of the strenuous life, was the first to deliver his Inaugural Address bareheaded. Pearl-gray top hats, matching cutaway coats and darker gray striped trousers - traditional daytime formal wear - were the approved inaugural costume for perhaps a century; Mr. **Carter** rejected this elegance for a business suit in 1977, but Mr. Reagan reinstated the cutaway in 1981. In 1985, frigid weather drove Mr. Reagan into the Capitol for a semiprivate oath-taking and, sartorially, into a business suit. Now Mr. Obama (edit) is returning to the Capitol, weather permitting, but retaining the business suit.

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

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

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

Historical accounts are spotty, but the first full-fledged inaugural parade appears to have followed Jackson back to the White House in 1829. By the time of Zachary Taylor in 1849, the parade took an hour to pass a given point. Lincoln's first inaugural parade, in 1861, included floats; one of them carried 34 girls representing the existing states, and it paused long enough at the White House for the new President to kiss each of them. The 1865 Lincoln parade was the



first to include blacks, both civilian organizations and a military battalion. Ulysses S. Grant's 1869 parade, the largest to that time, included eight military divisions; he watched it from a reviewing stand. Grover Cleveland's second parade, in 1893, lasted six hours despite an inch of wet snow. William Howard Taft's parade in 1909 was almost canceled by a blizzard and ice storm, but Mrs. Taft rode to the White House with her husband. The first Eisenhower inaugural parade in 1953 was the most martial; 22,000 of the 27,000 marchers were military. Kennedy's 1961 parade had 32,000 people and a PT boat in the line of march.

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

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



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

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Summary Questions:

Identify these key terms:

Affirm-

Lame Duck tenancy-

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



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

Reflection: Comment on the following in a short paragraph.

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

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



Version B

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January 21, 1989

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

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



What is the advantage of having the inauguration outside?

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

When are inaugurations held according to the 20th Amendment?

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

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

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

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



On May 7, 1789 the inaugural ball was born in New York City, with the **George Washington**, Vice President **John Adams** and members of Congress in attendance. The first inaugural souvenir was on sale: a lady's fan with a medallion profile of the President. Some historical accounts refer to this ball as "unofficial" and say the first official ball did not take place until 1809 with **James** and Dolley **Madison** as its stars and 400 tickets going for \$4 each. The public **clamored** for ball tickets. In 1837 **Martin Van Buren** staged two balls but only attended the higher-priced one. **President Harrison** expanded this to four in 1841, and managed to attend all of them despite of his cold. In 1857 **James Buchanan** restored the single inaugural ball, but he had to construct a special building on Judiciary Square to accommodate 6,000 people for dining and dancing. The coldest inaugural ball was **Grant's** second, in 1873, when the outdoor temperature was 4 degrees. The dancers kept their coats on and the champagne froze.

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

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

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

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

Technology has allowed more citizens to witness the inauguration of the President. The first account to be telegraphed was the swearing-in of **James K. Polk** in 1845. The first inauguration to be recorded on film was **William McKinley's** in 1897. The first to be broadcast on radio and amplified by microphone was **Warren G. Harding's** in 1921. The first to be televised was the



1949 inauguration of **Harry S. Truman**, although it reached only the East Coast because national telecasts were not yet possible.

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

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

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

Inaugural Ceremonies and Souvenirs



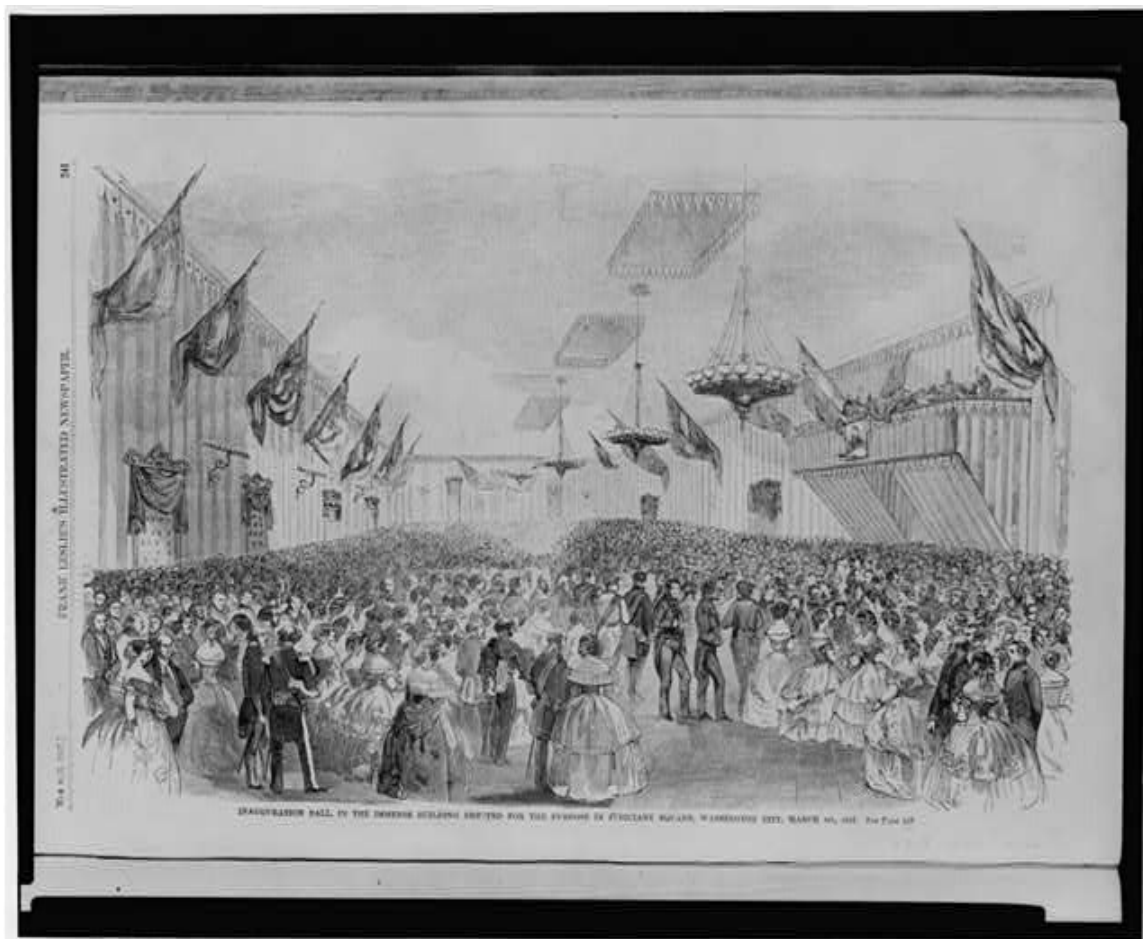
Grover Cleveland- 1885



Andrew Jackson- 1829



Jimmy Carter- 1977



James Buchanan- 1857

PIECES

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

*by Mr
Dufourcane*

SOLEMN INVOCATION.

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

*Bembrandt
Psal*

THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND.

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

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

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

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

CHORUS.

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

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

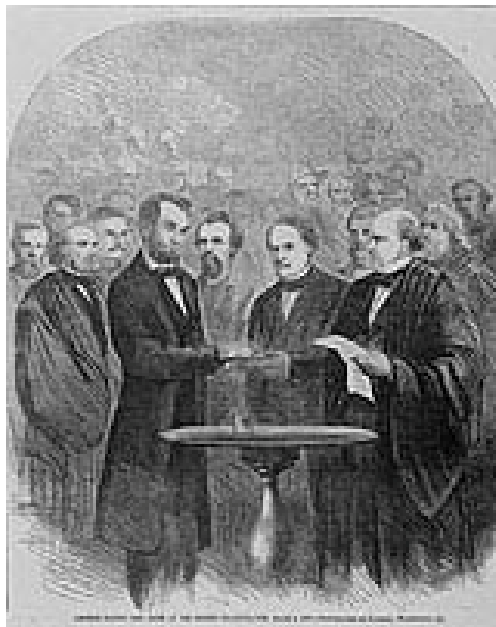
AFTER THE ORATION.

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

Handel

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

Kennedy- 1961



Lincoln- 1865

The Gift Outright

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

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



Theodore Roosevelt- 1901



Inaugural Addresses: Setting the Stage

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

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

Abraham Lincoln- Second Inaugural Address, 1865

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

Historical events that influenced this passage:

Message being communicated about the goals of the future administration:

Franklin D. Roosevelt- First Inaugural Address, 1933

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

Historical events that influenced this passage:



Message being communicated about the future goals of the administration:

John F. Kennedy- 1961

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

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

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

Historical events that influenced this passage:

Message being communicated about the future goals of the administration:

Summary Questions:

- In your opinion, how important is the inaugural address to establishing a new President as the leader of the Nation? Defend your opinion.
- If you were the president-elect, what would you want to say in your inaugural address? Why?

John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

President Johnson, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, President Truman, reverend clergy, fellow citizens, we observe today not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom—symbolizing an end, as well as a beginning—signifying renewal, as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge—and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United, there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do—for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

To those new States whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom—and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

To those peoples in the huts and villages across the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.



To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge—to convert our good words into good deeds—in a new alliance for progress—to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty. But this peaceful revolution of hope cannot become the prey of hostile powers. Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas. And let every other power know that this Hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.

To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support—to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective—to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak—and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.

We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed.

But neither can two great and powerful groups of nations take comfort from our present course—both sides overburdened by the cost of modern weapons, both rightly alarmed by the steady spread of the deadly atom, yet both racing to alter that uncertain balance of terror that stays the hand of mankind's final war.

So let us begin anew—remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.

Let both sides, for the first time, formulate serious and precise proposals for the inspection and control of arms—and bring the absolute power to destroy other nations under the absolute control of all nations.

Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths, and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah—to "undo the heavy burdens ... and to let the oppressed go free."



And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

All this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this Administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than in mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation"—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

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

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

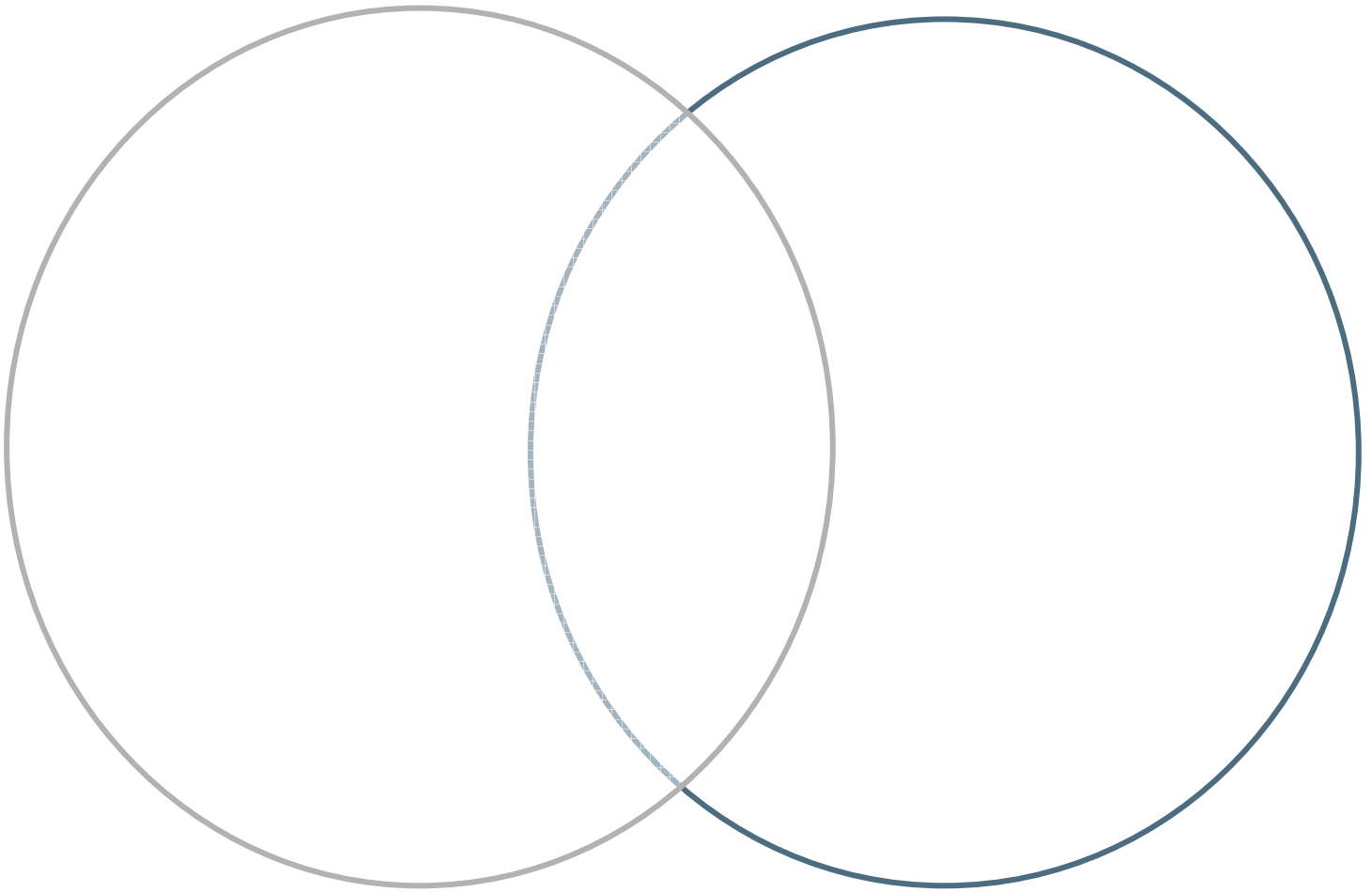
My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man. Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

Venn Diagram: Inaugurations of 1961 and 2009

Kennedy
Inauguration

Obama
Inauguration

Both





Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance

President:

Inaugural Year(s):

Circumstances surrounding the President's election /inauguration:

Inaugural Events:

Important Facts:

Assessment A: Presidential Inaugurations: Making a Statement

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

- What can we predict about a Presidency by examining the ceremonies and choices made regarding a Presidential inauguration?
- To what extent do these choices reflect the values and style of a future President?
- How can the citizenry participate in the proceedings? What should Americans know about the inauguration procedure?
- Compare the 2009 inauguration events to those of 1961. How have inaugurations changed throughout our nation's history?



Assessment B: Presidential Inaugurations: Style and Substance



Create a pamphlet that you could distribute to students of the 2009 and 1961 inaugurations. Your pamphlet will help citizens to follow the events and understand the history of the ceremonies. In your pamphlet you should include:

- Constitutional requirements for the inauguration
- Memorable facts from inaugurations of 1961-2009
- Events planned for the 1961 and 2009 inaugurations
- How did the events of 1961 reflect the style and presidency of John F. Kennedy? How did the events of 2009 reflect the style and of Barack Obama?