

# INAUGURATION DAY



## Inauguration Day *Watkins group*

Men of all shapes, sizes, and skin colors have taken the office of president of the United States in the country's history. But they all share one thing in common: they each started their time in office with an Inauguration ceremony. Americans have enjoyed watching the Inauguration ceremonies of the president and vice president ever since the first president was sworn in. George Washington's Inauguration ceremony took place in 1789. Inauguration (sounds like "ih-nog-ye-ray-shun") means a ceremony to mark the beginning of something. It can also mean the formal beginning of a person's new position or office. At first, Inauguration ceremonies were small, private events. They were usually held indoors. However, as the American population grew, more and more people wanted to watch the presidential Inaugurations. The ceremonies began to grow. They turned into day-long events. These events included fireworks, parades, and fancy balls.

Inauguration Day is a busy day for Mr. President. The day usually begins with a special morning church service. George W. Bush and George H. W. Bush both went to church services. So did Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, John F. Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt and George Washington. Not every president has chosen to though. Next, the current president and [resident-elect (a special name for the upcoming president)] ride together to the Capitol. The swearing-in ceremonies take place at the Capitol. Military officials follow in front of and behind the president's car. The first event of the ceremony is the vice president's swearing in. This takes place on a stage that is set up outside of the Capitol Building. A senator is chosen to give the oath to the vice president. This is because the Vice president serves as the president of the Senate. The vice president repeats this oath:

"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."

After the vice president is sworn in, the president places his right hand on the Bible and his left hand in the air. He then repeats this oath:

"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."

After the oath, the newly sworn in president gives an Inaugural Address. This address is a speech about the president's plans for America. Presidents usually talk about what they hope to work towards during their time in office. The new president and vice president walk out with the old president and vice president to end the ceremony. The former president and vice president are then free to go off to begin their post-presidential lives.

The new president and vice president do not have time to rest yet. More important events wait for them! After the Inauguration ceremony, the president heads off to his Inaugural luncheon. Recently, the chefs have picked a meal to serve that is usually served in the state where the president and vice president are from. The meal includes more than eating though. Speeches are made, toasts are given, and gifts are shared. While the president eats, Americans wait excitedly outside for Inaugural Parade to start. After lunch, the president, vice president, their wives, and other special guests parade down Pennsylvania

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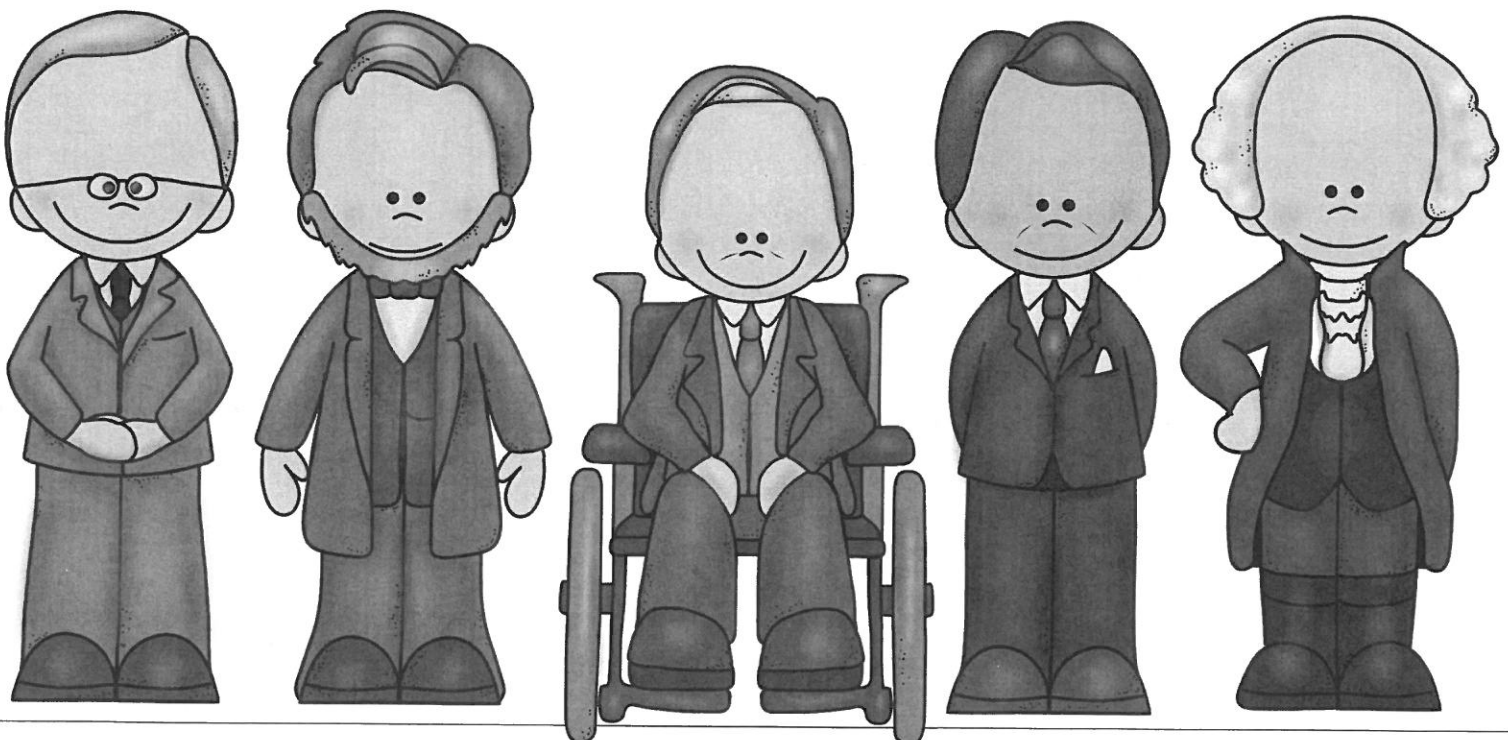
## Inauguration Day *Watkins group*

Avenue. This is the street that the White House is on. They march beside marching bands, military groups, and floats. The last event of the day after the parade is the Inaugural ball. Many important people in Washington get invited to this event. Some tickets are sold to people who want to attend, too. However, just because a person is willing to pay the price doesn't mean he or she will be lucky enough to receive an invite to the ball. Today, presidents don't just go to one ball. They may go to up to fourteen balls!

Only a few people will ever be able to experience Inauguration Day. The president and vice president of the United States are very important roles to the country. Important positions like the president and vice president are worthy of celebrating for a day. The order of events, the words spoken, the clothing worn, the locations used, and the food enjoyed have all changed with each president. Even though Inauguration Day has looked different for each president, it has always been a day to honor the new leaders of our great country.

**FAST FACT:** President Obama's first Inauguration brought the largest crowd ever to Washington, D.C. Over one million people were there. Obama used two Bibles during his swearing in: Dr. Martin Luther King's Traveling Bible and Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Bible.

**FAST FACT:** We vote for the president in November. So, why do we wait until January to make it official? Inauguration Day used to be even further from Election Day. It used to take place on March 4th. In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the Constitution changed the beginning of a president's term from March 4th to January 20th. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first to be sworn in on January 20th.



# INAUGURATION DAY

## Inauguration Day *Eckstein group*

There have been more than forty presidents of the United States. They have been all different shapes, sizes, and skin colors. But they all have one thing in common: they each started their time in office with an Inauguration ceremony. Americans have enjoyed watching Inauguration ceremonies ever since the first president was sworn in. George Washington's Inauguration ceremony took place in 1789. Inauguration (sounds like "ih-nog-ye-ray-shun") means a ceremony at the beginning of something. It can also mean the beginning of a person's new position or office. At first, Inauguration ceremonies were small events. They were usually indoors. However, as the American population grew, more and more people wanted to watch the Inaugurations. The ceremonies began to grow. They turned into day-long events. These events included fireworks, parades, and fancy balls.

Inauguration Day is a busy day for Mr. President. The day usually starts with a church service in the morning. Not every president goes to a service though. Next, the current president and president-elect (a special name for the upcoming president) ride together to the Capitol. The swearing-in ceremonies take place at the Capitol. Military officials lead the president's car. They also follow behind. The first event of the ceremony is the vice president's swearing in. This takes place on a stage at the Capitol Building. A senator is chosen to give the oath to the vice president. This is because the vice president serves as the president of the Senate. The vice president says this oath:

"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."

After the vice president is sworn in, it is the president's turn. He puts his right hand on the Bible and his left hand in the air. He says this oath:

"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."

After the oath, the president is officially in office! His first item of business is a speech called the Inaugural Address. In this speech, the president shares his goals for his time in office. After the speech, the new president and vice president walk out with the old president and vice president. This marks the end of the ceremony. The former president and vice president are then free to go off to begin their post-presidential lives.

The new president and vice president do not have time to rest yet. More important events wait for them! After the Inauguration ceremony, the president heads off to his Inaugural luncheon. The food served at the meal changes with each president and vice president. The food that is made is supposed to be a typical dish served in the president's and vice president's home states. The meal includes more than eating. Speeches are made, toasts are given, and gifts are shared. While the President eats, Americans wait outside. They are excited for the Inaugural Parade to start. After lunch, the president, vice president, their wives, and other special guests parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. This is the street that the White House is on. They march beside marching bands, military groups, and floats. The last event of the day after

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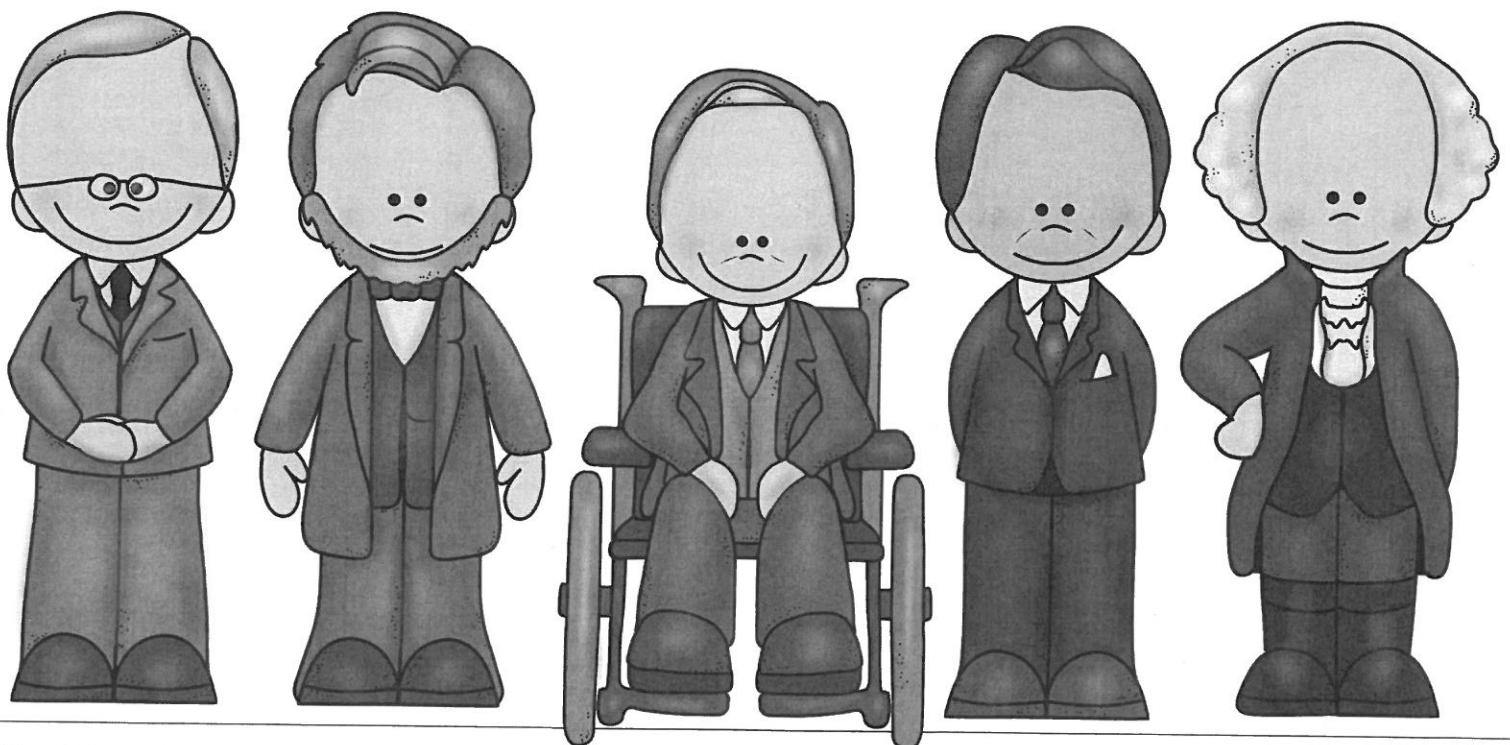
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the parade is the Inaugural ball. Many important people in Washington get invited to this event. Some tickets are sold to people who want to attend, too. However, just because a person is willing to pay the price doesn't mean he or she will be lucky enough to receive an invite to the ball. Today, presidents don't just go to one ball. They may go to up to fourteen balls!

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**TEXT-BASED EVIDENCE QUESTIONS****Inauguration Day**

**Directions:** Answer these questions after you read the passage. Remember to begin your answer by restating part of the question, use direct evidence from the text, and explain your thinking.

**KEY IDEAS & DETAILS**

1. What do all United States Presidents have in common? **RI.1**

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2. Explain how Inauguration Day celebrations have changed over time. **RI.3**

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3. Explain how Inauguration ceremonies differ for each President. **RI.3**

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4. What do all Inauguration Day celebrations have in common? **RI.1**

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5. Summarize the events of Inauguration Day for the new President. **RI.2**

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**TEXT-BASED EVIDENCE QUESTIONS****Inauguration Day**

**Directions:** Answer these questions after you read the passage. Remember to begin your answer by restating part of the question, use direct evidence from the text, and explain your thinking.

**CRAFT & STRUCTURE**

6. Explain the meaning of the word "inauguration." **RI.4**

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7. How is the passage organized? (Chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. **RI.5**

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**INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS**

8. What is the author's message about the importance of Inauguration Day? Use evidence from the text to support your reasoning. **RI.8**

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