

President's Promise



photo Rep. Norma Torres

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, will be an exciting day in Washington, D.C., and around the country. On that day, our country officially welcomes a new president, Joseph R. Biden Jr., and vice president, Kamala Harris.

The U.S. Constitution sets Inauguration Day as Jan. 20. This year's ceremony will be the 59th inauguration.

The ceremony where the president and vice president are sworn in is called the **inauguration** (in-AUG-yur-AY-shun). It takes place on a specially built platform on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol.

The theme for the Biden/Harris inauguration is "Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union."

A different look

During most inaugurations, hundreds of thousands of people gather on the Mall in Washington to witness the new president as he or she is sworn in. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, planners are making changes to the ceremony itself and to other traditional events on that day.

For example, after the swearing-in and the **inaugural address**, the new president and first lady typically escort the former president and first lady to Marine One, the president's helicopter. Then the president

and vice president traditionally go to Statuary Hall in the Capitol building to enjoy lunch with senators, representatives and other government officials.

Following lunch, past presidents have ridden or walked in a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

In the evening, the president, first lady and others usually attend many different parties, known as **inaugural balls**.

Transfer of power



Until the late 1790s, there were no political parties in the U.S. But in the election of 1800, two parties, the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans, competed for the presidency. When Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, won the office, the Federalists accepted it and did not act against him.

Peacefully transferring power between two different political belief systems became an important feature of our democracy.



In 2009, President and Mrs. Obama walk with President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush to Marine One.

photo courtesy Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

The president's oath

People around the world find inspiration in the inaugural ceremonies of the U.S. president. Usually, U.S. presidents have taken their oath of office in public. But sometimes, as when a president has died in office, the vice president takes the oath in private.

"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."

The vice president's oath

"I do solemnly swear 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 I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."



Resources



On the Web:

- inaugural.senate.gov
- bit.ly/MPinauguration

At the library:

- "A Parade for George Washington" by David A. Adler; illustrated by John O'Brien

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the inauguration are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ADDRESS, BALL, BIDEN, CAPITOL, CELEBRATE, CEREMONY, HARRIS, INAUGURATION, MALL, OATH, PARADE, PLATFORM, POWER, PRESIDENT, TRANSFER, VICE, WASHINGTON, WHITE HOUSE.

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Cook's Corner

Apple Salad With Cubed Cheddar & Pecans

You'll need:

- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 4 McIntosh apples, cored and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 cup cubed sharp cheddar cheese

- juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley



What to do:

- Place pecans in small dry skillet and set pan over medium heat. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes, shaking pan frequently, until pecans are toasted. Remove from heat.
- In a large bowl, combine apples, cheese, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 teaspoon lemon zest and parsley. Toss to combine. Fold in pecans. Serves 4.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. Public celebration with people walking or riding on a street (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. Something that is spoken; a public talk (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

3. A pledge that a person will do or not do something (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. A formal performance with fixed rules (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

- The president led the long _____ down the avenue.
- Clara listened to the _____ and liked the new ideas.
- Frank heard the president make a _____ to citizens.
- Marcel enjoyed the traditions of the _____.

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Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Parade, Speech, Promise, Ceremony.

Mini Jokes



Joe: Why is the inauguration such a clean event?

Kamala: Because it's held in Washington!

Eco Note



Scientists in Los Alamos, New Mexico, have identified lightning "superbolts" that can be 1,000 times brighter and stretch hundreds of miles farther than regular bolts. The researchers say roughly 1 in every 300 lightning strikes is a superbolt. These extreme flashes occur in rare, positively charged cloud-to-ground events rather than the more common negatively charged cloud-to-ground discharges.



photo courtesy Los Alamos National Lab

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For later:

Watch your newspaper for articles about the upcoming inauguration.

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