

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a comprehensive understanding of Inauguration Day, its significance in American democracy, and the various traditions and ceremonies associated with the event. The student will also engage in creative activities that reinforce their learning and allow them to express their thoughts about the upcoming inauguration in 2025.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or markers for drawing
- Access to a calendar to mark important dates
- A notebook for writing reflections and notes
- Internet access (if possible) for research on past inaugurations

Before the lesson, ensure that the student is familiar with the basic structure of the U.S. government, including the roles of the President, Vice President, and Congress. It may also be helpful to discuss the electoral process leading up to the inauguration.

Activities

- **Inauguration Timeline:**

Create a timeline of past presidential inaugurations. The student can research key dates and events, including the first inauguration in 1789. This activity will help them understand the historical context of the event.

- **Design an Inauguration Invitation:**

The student will design a creative invitation for the 2025 inauguration ceremony. They can include details like the date, location, and special guests. This activity encourages artistic expression and planning skills.

- **Write a Speech:**

The student will write a short speech as if they were the incoming president. This speech should reflect their vision for the country and what they hope to achieve during their term. This activity promotes critical thinking and persuasive writing.

- **Reflection Journal:**

After discussing the significance of Inauguration Day, the student will write a reflection in their journal about what they think is important for a president to address in their inaugural speech. This encourages personal connection to the topic.

Talking Points

- "Inauguration Day is a significant event in American democracy, marking the beginning of a new presidential term."
- "The first presidential inauguration took place on April 30, 1789, when George Washington

took the oath of office."

- "Traditionally, the inauguration ceremony includes the oath of office, a parade, and various celebrations."
- "Inauguration Day is held on January 20th following the presidential election, unless that day falls on a Sunday."
- "The inaugural address is an important part of the ceremony, where the president outlines their vision and goals for the upcoming term."
- "This event is attended by thousands of people and is also broadcasted nationally, showcasing the democratic process to the world."