

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the significance of Inauguration Day, learn about the traditions and ceremonies associated with it, and be able to discuss the role of the President in the United States government.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or markers
- A timer (optional)
- A comfortable space for discussion and activities
- Access to a computer or device for research (optional)

Before the lesson, it may help to familiarize yourself with the history of Inauguration Day and key facts about the presidency in the U.S. This will allow for a richer discussion with the student.

Activities

• Inauguration Day Timeline

Have the student create a timeline of important events that happen on Inauguration Day. They can include the swearing-in ceremony, the inaugural address, and any parades or celebrations. This will help them visualize the day's events.

• Design an Inaugural Invitation

The student will design an invitation to the inauguration. They can use their creativity to include details like the date, location, and who is being inaugurated. This activity will help them think about the formal aspects of the event.

• Inaugural Speech Writing

Ask the student to write a short inaugural speech as if they were the President. They can focus on what they hope to accomplish during their term and how they will serve the people. This will encourage them to think critically about leadership.

• Inauguration Day Trivia

Create a fun trivia quiz about Inauguration Day. The student can research facts and then quiz you or vice versa. This will reinforce their learning in a fun way.

Talking Points

- "Inauguration Day is the day when a new President takes office. It happens every four years on January 20th."

- “The swearing-in ceremony is important because it officially makes the person the President.”
- “Did you know that the first President to have a public inauguration was George Washington in 1789?”
- “Inaugural addresses are speeches where the new President shares their goals and vision for the country.”
- “There are many traditions associated with Inauguration Day, like the inaugural ball, where people celebrate the new President.”
- “The President takes an oath to protect the Constitution. This is a promise to uphold the laws of the land.”
- “Inauguration Day is also a time for reflection. People think about what the new President will do for the country.”
- “Sometimes, the President invites former Presidents to the inauguration as a sign of respect.”
- “The inauguration is not just a ceremony; it’s a celebration of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power.”
- “It’s important for everyone to learn about Inauguration Day because it shows how our government works and the role of the President.”