

INAUGURAL TRIVIA

1. What have all presidents since FDR attended prior to the inaugural service?
 - Church. (Past presidents had attended church, but only after the inauguration ceremony.)
2. At whose inauguration were African-Americans part of the procession for the first time?
 - Abraham Lincoln.
3. Who was the first president to ride in a car during the inaugural procession? (Hint: 1921.)
 - Warren Harding.
4. Since 1937, Vice Presidents have been sworn into office on the inaugural platform in front of the capital. The most popular place for the oath before 1937 was in the _____.
 - Senate chambers.
5. George Washington's inauguration took place at Federal Hall in New York, on a balcony that overlooked what famous street?
 - Wall Street.
6. Which president started the tradition of inviting a poet to participate in the inaugural ceremony?
 - John F. Kennedy, who invited Robert Frost.
7. Who had his father (who was a justice of the peace) swear into office?
 - Calvin Coolidge.
8. Who was the only president to take the oath of office onboard Air Force One?
 - Lyndon Johnson, following the assassination of John F. Kennedy.
9. Who gave the shortest inaugural address, clocking in at only 135 words?
 - George Washington, wearing a "black velvet suit, diamond knee buckles, black silk stockings, silver shoe buckles, and a dress sword."
10. Who gave the longest inaugural address, clocking in at 8,445 words?
 - William Harrison, who gave his 100 minute speech without a hat or coat in the middle of a snowstorm. Many believe that his death of pneumonia only 1 month later was due to exposure to the cold weather.
11. Which president's inaugural address was broadcast via radio for the first time?
 - Calvin Coolidge.
12. Who delivered his address over television airwaves for the first time?
 - Harry Truman.
13. Whose inaugural ceremony was the first to be broadcast live over the internet?
 - Bill Clinton.
14. Whose inaugural parade in 1985 was canceled due wind chill temperatures in the negative 10s and 20s?
 - Ronald Reagan. (Bonus: his first inauguration was one of the warmest on record!)
15. Most presidential inaugurations have occurred in March. Why is it now in January?
 - The 20th Amendment, ratified in 1933. The March date was originally set to give officials time finish counting election returns, and to allow candidates travel time to get to Washington.
16. Who was the first president inaugurated in Washington D.C.?
 - Thomas Jefferson.
17. Who took the oath of office on two Bibles, both family heirlooms?
 - Richard Nixon.
18. Who was the only unelected person to become president?
 - Gerald Ford, who replaced Spiro Agnew as VP in 1973, then replaced Nixon in 1974.
19. Who took the presidential oath of office privately on March 3, and publicly on March 5?
 - Rutherford Hayes, because Inauguration Day fell on a Sunday.
20. Who was the only president not sworn in on a Bible?
 - Theodore Roosevelt.