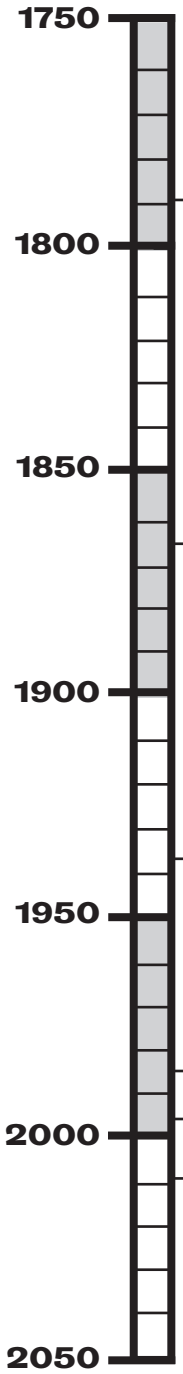
Name: _____

Inauguration History

Here are some facts and firsts concerning U.S. presidential inaugurations.



- In **1789**, George Washington, the first U.S. President, is inaugurated in New York City. New York City is the nation's first capital. Philadelphia is the second, before Washington, D.C.
- In **1865**, Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th President, gives his second Inaugural Address as the Civil War (1861-1865) is ending. He talks about the need for all citizens to work to "bind up the nation's wounds." African-Americans participate in the Inaugural Parade for the first time.
- In **1937**, at his second inauguration, Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes the first U.S. President sworn in to office in January. In 1933, Inauguration Day was changed from March 4 to January 20. It had been March 4 to allow time for officials to gather election results and leaders to get to the capital. Modern transportation allows inaugurations to happen sooner after an election.
- In **1985**, January 20 falls on a Sunday, so President Ronald Reagan is privately sworn in that day at the White House for a second term. His public inauguration on January 21 takes place inside the U.S. Capitol, due to very cold weather. It is the coldest Inauguration Day on record, with a noon temperature of 7°F.
- In **1997**, President Bill Clinton's second inauguration is the first time the event is broadcast live on the Internet.
- In **2009**, Barack Obama is the first African-American to be inaugurated President of the United States.

1. Where was George Washington inaugurated?
Ⓐ Washington, D.C. Ⓒ Philadelphia
Ⓑ New York City Ⓓ Boston

2. In what year was Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration?
Ⓐ 1798
Ⓑ 1800
Ⓒ 1865
Ⓓ 1937

3. Who was the first President to be inaugurated in January?
Ⓐ Herbert Hoover
Ⓑ Franklin D. Roosevelt
Ⓒ Ronald Reagan
Ⓓ Barack Obama

4. Why was Ronald Reagan's public inauguration inside?
Ⓐ because of a snowstorm
Ⓑ because it was raining
Ⓒ because it was very cold
Ⓓ none of the above

5. If you could travel back in time, which of the Presidents on this timeline would you most want to see inaugurated? Why?

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