

Topic: Inauguration 2009

Let's get started... There are presidents of countries, presidents of clubs, presidents of businesses and many other kinds of presidents. Have you ever been president or a leader of something? Talk about it. What would you like to be president of? Why?

Story: Inauguration means a formal ceremony to mark the beginning of something, such as a president's term of office. Mr. Barack Obama won the vote for president of the



President-elect Barack Obama

United States in November 2008. He will take the oath of office and become president on January 20, 2009. The theme for Mr. Obama's inauguration is "A New Birth of Freedom." Those words were said by President Abraham Lincoln during the civil war in the U.S one hundred years ago. President Lincoln hoped that the war, as terrible as it was, would bring good. Most Americans believe that the war did bring good. It ended slavery and kept the country together as one nation.



Out-going President George Bush



In pairs, ask and answer these questions:

- Who are your leaders? What do you think of them? Talk about leaders of . . .
- nations
- cities
- families
- businesses
- schools
- groups

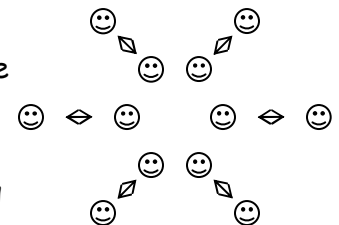
Share one of your partner's answers with the group.

Large Group Activity - Double Circle

Students form an inside and an outside circle, facing each other. The people on the inside circle ask, "What are you doing new in 2009?" The people on the outside circle answer, "I'm _____"

(for example, "I'm learning to ski", "I'm getting married", "I'm changing jobs", "I'm reading a new book.")

The outside circle moves around until everyone has talked together once. Then the outside circle and inside circle change places. Again, the inside circle asks the question, and the outside circle answers. Go around until everyone has asked and answered the question of every person.



Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups:

What are some of the problems that the new U.S. president will have to think about or solve? What are the most important things for Barack Obama to work on after he becomes president of the U.S.?



Mr. Obama is on the phone talking to you! What would you like to say to Mr. Obama?

What would you like to say to another world leader?

Do you read or listen to the news about your native country or other countries of the world? Why or why not? Tell us about a recent news story. What world or national events directly or indirectly affect your life? Explain.

What form of government does your native country have? What are the pros and cons of different forms of government? Give examples.

An oath may be **sworn** or **affirmed**.

To **swear** an oath is to promise by calling on a sacred witness, such as God.

The usual form is:

"I swear that I will _____, so help me God."

To **affirm** an oath is to promise without a witness.

The usual form is:

"I affirm that I will _____."



Bush sworn in as president in 2005.

When is an oath used in your native culture? Do people **swear** or **affirm** an oath? What kinds of promises do people make to each other?

Extra Challenge: As a group, hold a pretend inauguration for president of the United States. The president will raise his/her right hand and affirm the oath of office. (The class may vote for someone to act as president or the teacher may ask for volunteers.) The U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1 specifies the oath of office: "I do solemnly 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." Then, in small groups, change the oath of office and inaugurate presidents of other countries or other officials.

New vocabulary: inauguration, formal ceremony, term of office, civil war, swear, swearing-in, oath, oath of office, affirm, specify, government, slavery, pretend

Keep talking about it this week: Ask friends "What are you doing new in 2009?" Write down their answers and be ready to share with the group.

More on the inauguration of Barack Obama: <http://inaugural.senate.gov/2009/>