

Keeping Teachers in the Know

Presidential Inaugurations

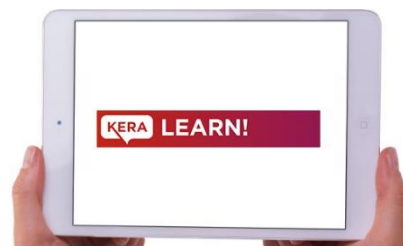
When Joe Biden takes the oath of office as the 46th president, his remarks will contribute to a long, rich history of speeches by incoming presidents. Some are remembered for addressing the challenges and hopes of the times others for features of the day such as the introduction of a great poem. Here are a few examples.



- [Presidential Inauguration History](#) – This short video explains the history of inauguration traditions, including why the event doesn't happen until January 20. It comes with discussion questions, vocabulary words, a quiz and an activity on inaugural speeches. **(grades 4-8)**
- [Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise](#)-- In 1993, President Bill Clinton asked Maya Angelou to write a poem for his inauguration. After Clinton's inaugural address, Maya Angelou recited her original poem "On the Pulse of Morning." Support materials include the poem's text. **(grades 6-12)**
- [LBJ's inaugural address, 1965](#) – In this speech, President Lyndon Johnson cited the covenant of justice, liberty and union that formed the nation and calls upon Americans to look to the future with hope. **(grades 9-12)**
- [JFK's Inaugural Address, 1961](#) -- In this speech, President John F. Kennedy concluded, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."
- [FDR's First Inaugural Address, 1933](#) -- In March of 1933, FDR told Americans the only thing they have to fear is fear itself. **(grades 9-12)**
- [Theodore Roosevelt's Inaugural Address, 1905](#) -- In his 1905 inaugural address, President Theodore Roosevelt said that great things are expected of those to whom much has been given. **(grades 9-12)**
- [Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address](#) -- On March 4, 1865, only 41 days before his assassination, President Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office for the second time. His address previewed his plans for healing a once-divided nation. The speech is engraved on the north interior wall of the Lincoln Memorial.
- [George Washington's First Inaugural Speech \(1789\)](#) – This facsimile of the handwritten first inaugural address by the first U.S. president is from the National Archives.

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