

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Obama Inauguration Plans Celebrate America's Diversity

12/23/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/inauguration_12-23.html

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

PROCEDURE

1. WARM UP

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

2. MAIN ACTIVITY

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

3. DISCUSSION

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.

INITIATING QUESTIONS

1. When does Barack Obama officially become president?

2. What is the Oath of Office?

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

1. How many people are expected on the parade route?

ANSWER

An estimated 2 million -- or more -- inauguration-goers line up along the parade route.

2. When does President elect Barack Obama become president?

ANSWER

At noon January 20, 2009 President-elect Barack Obama will become President Obama.

3. Who swears in President Obama? Who swears in Vice President Biden?

ANSWER

Chief Justice John G. Roberts leads Obama in the Oath of Office. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens will lead Biden.

4. Where do the president and vice president go after the inauguration speech? Why is it noteworthy?

ANSWER

The president and vice president are then guests of honor at a lunch held by the United States Congress -- one of the only times the president, vice president, and both houses of Congress congregate in the same location.

5. Who is giving the opening prayer? Why is it controversial?

ANSWER

Pastor Rick Warren, the leader of a Saddleback a twenty thousand member church, will say a prayer. The pastor is highly praised for his work with AIDS in Africa, social justice and the environment. However, he holds opinions contrary to the president-elect on some gay rights and abortion issues.

6. Name at least three other people speaking or performing at the inauguration.

ANSWER

Singer Aretha Franklin, Professor Elizabeth Alexander, Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, Tuskegee Airman, composer John Williams, world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman.

7. Who was the first president to include African Americans in the inauguration? Who was the first president to include women?

ANSWER

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was the first president to include African-Americans in his inaugural parade. More than 50 years later, in 1917, Woodrow Wilson was the first president to include women in his inaugural parade.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Some experts think this may be the largest inauguration yet, why do you think there is so much excitement around the Obama inauguration?

2. What do you think of President-elect Obama's decision to include Rick Warren?

3. What do you think the themes of Obama's speech will be?

4. Extra credit: will you be at inauguration? Are you watching it from your home? Write up a personal essay about your inauguration experience and send it to us at extra@newshour.org

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.