



## SPECIAL REPORT

# TRUMP TAKES CHARGE



ON Friday 20 January, Donald J Trump becomes the 45th president of the United States of America. The event at which a new leader is sworn in is called the inauguration, and it is an important part of American democracy. What happens on the big day? And can Trump unite a very divided country?

## WHAT IS AN INAUGURATION?

It is the formal way in which a person takes on a job – in this case, the job of president of America. The winning candidate's four-year term as president begins when they declare the oath at noon on inauguration day (which is always on 20 January). This is what the president must say, with one hand on a Bible: "I do solemnly swear 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."

As well as the oath, there are some other traditions that take place. At the start of the day, the president will go to a morning worship service. After the oath, he'll make a speech to the nation called an inaugural address. Then the president walks, at least part of the way, to the White House, the official home and workplace of the US president, from where he will watch the inaugural parade.



20 January 1981: President Reagan is sworn in

## WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE PARADE?



At Barack Obama's two inaugurations, Beyoncé (right), Kelly Clarkson and soul legend Aretha Franklin were among the stars who performed.

The organisation team behind Mr Trump's inauguration is said to have had problems booking performers for the parade. Last November, a

member of the Trump team announced that British singer Elton John would be appearing, but the star quickly released a statement saying he wouldn't.

There are reports that Team Trump is struggling to find big-name stars willing to perform, because many artists are against Mr Trump and his policies. But there will be marching bands, a choir and an appearance by dance troupe The Rockettes, who normally perform at Radio City Hall in New York.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER INAUGURATION DAY?

Donald Trump gets to work as the president of the United States. He will be president for the next four years.

Americans will vote again in November 2020. Mr Trump doesn't have to stand again for president, but he might choose to do so.



Protests are expected at the inauguration

## CONCERNS CONTINUE

Donald Trump probably divides

America more than any other president before him.

There are a number of reasons why many Americans are so worried about him.

First of all, it's important to understand that he won the American voting system, called an electoral college, easily. But he actually lost the overall vote by 2.8 million to rival Hillary Clinton. This means that more Americans wanted her to be president, but the complicated US system means Donald Trump won the election.

During the campaign, some of Mr Trump's ideas upset many people. For example, his promise to build a wall along the US-Mexico border – and somehow make Mexico pay for it – was seen as prejudiced and unhelpful. His plan to ban all Muslim people from entering the US was criticised for being racist.

Then there are the concerns over Mr Trump's businesses. He has promised to quit all of his companies, but he has put his sons in charge of them, and there are still fears he may make decisions that are good for his businesses.

Finally, American intelligence agencies have said that, during the election, Russia hacked emails belonging to Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party, to help Mr Trump. But he has refused to criticise Russian president Vladimir Putin, even though many Americans think Russia is an enemy and should be punished.



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### GLOSSARY

**Democracy** – the belief in freedom and equality between people/a system of government based on this belief in which the citizens elect representatives to hold power.

**Constitution** – a document of the fundamental laws and principles by which the United States is governed.

**Oath** – a solemn promise

**Electoral college** – this is the name for the system that elects the president. Citizens in each state don't vote for the president directly – instead, they vote for people called electors. So whichever side gets the most votes will get all of that state's electors. Most states have laws that say the electors have to vote for the winning side, although there are some times when the electors go against the wishes of the voters. These are known as 'faithless electors', but they have never changed the outcome of an election.

### PART A: FIND THE FACTS

**A1.** What happens in America on Friday 20 January?

**A2.** What is an inauguration?

**A3.** Summarise what happens on inauguration day.

**A4.** Fill in the gaps to complete the oath the president must take, with one hand on the Bible:

"I do solemnly swear that I will ..... execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my....., preserve, protect and ..... the .....of the United States.

**A5.** Name the stars who performed at Barack Obama's two inaugurations.

### PART B: DEDUCE INFORMATION

**B1.** How did Donald Trump win the election even though he lost the overall vote by 2.8 million to rival Hillary Clinton?

**B2.** It is typical for big stars to perform at the inauguration but the team behind Mr Trump's inauguration is said to have had problems booking performers. Why?

**B3.** Why are there concerns about Mr Trump's businesses despite the fact that he has promised to quit all of his companies?

**B4.** How did Mr Trump upset many people during his election campaign?

**B5.** What has Russia got to do with the concerns that many people have about Donald Trump?

### PART C: DISCUSSION TIME

**C1.** Protests are expected at the inauguration. Do you think that people are right to protest if they are unhappy about the outcome of an election? Justify your opinion.

**C2.** It is tradition that one of the final jobs of an outgoing president is to write a letter for the new president offering advice. What advice would you give the 45th president of the United States?