

WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Analyze quotes from key presidential inaugural addresses.
2. Paraphrase significant presidential quotes.
3. Draw inferences on the reason for the quote during the era of American history.

TEKS: 8.29B; US.29B

Materials Needed: A set of cards

Teaching Strategy:

1. Ask the students what they think the purpose of the president's inauguration serves.
2. Discuss with the students that even though the only Constitution duty in the transfer of power from one president to another is for the new president to take the oath of office. However, making remarks following that oath has been customary since George Washington in 1789. Other ceremonial aspects of the event have evolved over time.
3. Use the important facts listed below about presidential inaugurations as desired:
 - A. The first outdoor inaugural address was given by James Monroe in 1817. However, Washington did take the oath of office outside.
 - B. Dwight Eisenhower prefaced his inaugural in 1953 with a prayer.
 - C. Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural is the one of the shortest and considered the best by most historians.
 - D. George Washington's 2nd Inaugural was the shortest with only 135 words.
 - E. William Henry Harrison delivered the longest, over 10,000 words lasting around two hours in bitter weather. He is also the president who served the shortest time, dying of pneumonia only one month.
 - F. George Washington is thought to have started the precedent of ending the oath of office with the phrase, "so help me God." Others have followed suit.
 - G. The Vice-President has given a speech following the oath of office, but this was discontinued when Andrew Johnson (Lincoln's VP) sipped too much brandy to warm himself while waiting his turn.
 - H. The first televised inaugural was Harry S. Truman's in 1949.

- I. James Madison held the first inaugural ball on the same day of the inauguration.
 - J. Teddy Roosevelt wore a ring to his inauguration that contained a lock of Lincoln's hair (cut after he was shot.).
 - K. FDR was inaugurated in March for his first term, but the first to be inaugurated on January 20 for his second term, as a result of 20th Amendment.
4. Explain that by analyzing quotes of key inaugural addresses can tell one about the time and era of the president who spoke the words.
 5. Hand out a card to each student. Explain that they have either a picture of a president, the date of one of the president's inauguration, or a famous quote from an inaugural address. Have them do the following with the type of card they have:
 - A. Picture of a president--Identify the person, the dates of their administration, and a brief summary of major events at the time of the inauguration.
 - B. Name and date--Identify the current conditions and major events of the United States at the time this president took office.
 - C. Quote—Paraphrase the quote and look for context clues which help to identify which president used this quote in their inaugural address.
 6. At your direction, they are to circulate and try and find a triple match, picture, date, and quote. When they think they have a match, have them verify their ideas with the teacher.
 7. After all cards are matched correctly, have each group present their analysis in chronological order. Discuss with the students their favorite and least favorite quotes and the reasons for their choices.

GT/PreAP: Have the students look online at the following address, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/inaug.asp for other examples of significant quotes that explain the times in which they were used by presidents.



George Washington-2nd Inaugural, March 4, 1793

I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

Thomas Jefferson-2nd Inaugural, March 4, 1805

I have said, fellow citizens, that the income reserved had enabled us to extend our limits; but that extension may possibly pay for itself before we are called on, and in the meantime, may keep down the accruing interest; in all events, it will repay the advances we have made. I know that the acquisition of Louisiana has been disapproved by some, from a candid apprehension that the enlargement of our territory would endanger its union. But who can limit the extent to which the federative principle may operate effectively? The larger our association, the less will it be shaken by local passions; and in any view, is it not better that the opposite bank of the Mississippi should be settled by our own brethren and children, than by strangers of another family? With which shall we be most likely to live in harmony and friendly intercourse?

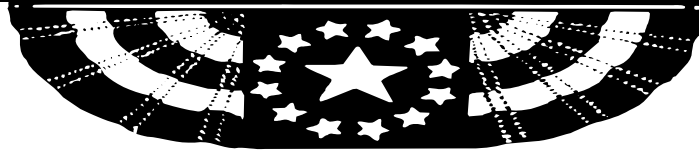
Andrew Jackson-2nd Inaugural, March 4, 1833

Solemnly impressed with these considerations, my countrymen will ever find me ready to exercise my constitutional powers in arresting measures which may directly or indirectly encroach upon the rights of the States or tend to consolidate all political power in the General Government. But of equal and, indeed of incalculable, importance is the union of these States, and the sacred duty of all to contribute to its preservation by a liberal support of the General Government in the exercise of its just powers.

Abraham Lincoln-2nd Inaugural, March 4, 1865

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.





Franklin D. Roosevelt-1st Inaugural, March 4, 1933

So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself--nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

Harry S. Truman- Inaugural, January 20, 1949

The American people desire, and are determined to work for, a world in which all nations and all peoples are free to govern themselves as they see fit, and to achieve a decent and satisfying life. Above all else, our people desire, and are determined to work for, peace on earth--a just and lasting peace--based on genuine agreement freely arrived at by equals. In the pursuit of these aims, the United States and other like-minded nations find themselves directly opposed by a regime with contrary aims and a totally different concept of life. That regime adheres to a false philosophy which purports to offer freedom, security, and greater opportunity to mankind. Misled by this philosophy, many peoples have sacrificed their liberties only to learn to their sorrow that deceit and mockery, poverty and tyranny, are their reward. That false philosophy is communism.

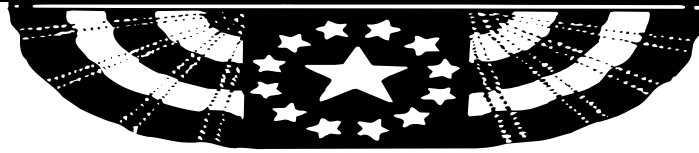
John F. Kennedy-Inaugural, January 20, 1961

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man. Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you.

Ronald Reagan-1st Inaugural, January 20, 1981

We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter--and they are on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.





Lyndon B. Johnson- Inaugural, January 20, 1965

Under this covenant of justice, liberty, and union we have become a nation--prosperous, great, and mighty. And we have kept our freedom. But we have no promise from God that our greatness will endure. We have been allowed by Him to seek greatness with the sweat of our hands and the strength of our spirit.

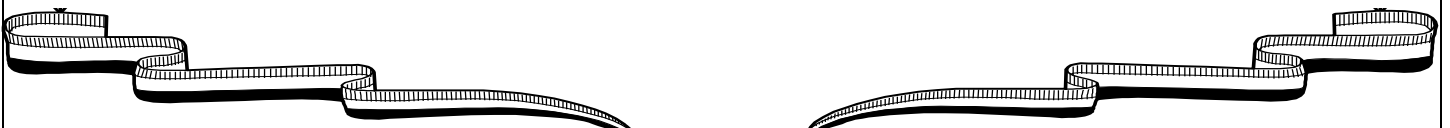
I do not believe that the Great Society is the ordered, changeless, and sterile battalion of the ants. It is the excitement of becoming--always becoming, trying, probing, falling, resting, and trying again--but always trying and always gaining.

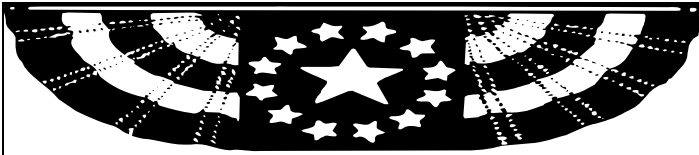
William J. Clinton-1st Inaugural, January 20, 1993

There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”

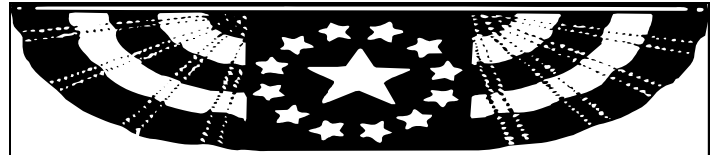
George W. Bush-1st Inaugural, January 20, 2001

Our public interest depends on private character, on civic duty and family bonds and basic fairness, on uncounted, unhonored acts of decency which give direction to our freedom.

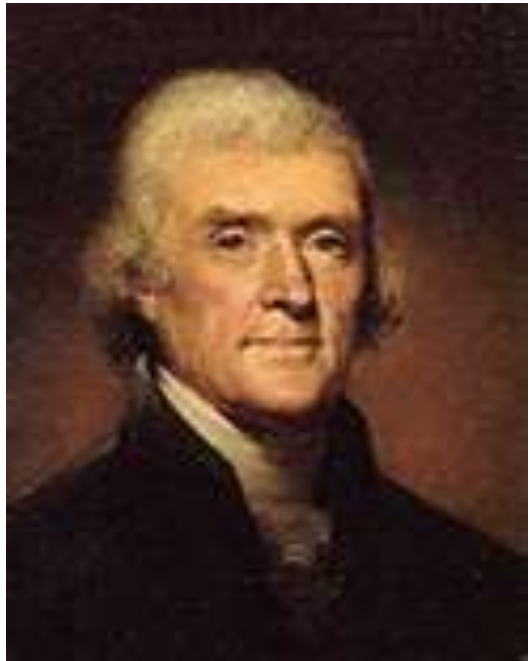
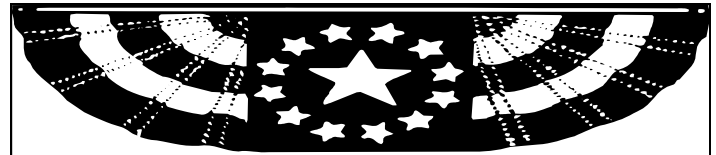


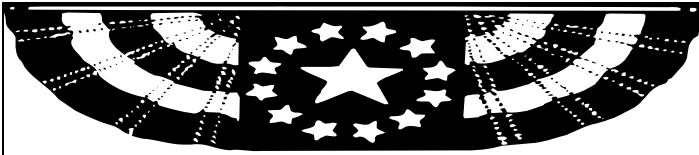


George Washington
2nd Inaugural,
March 4, 1793

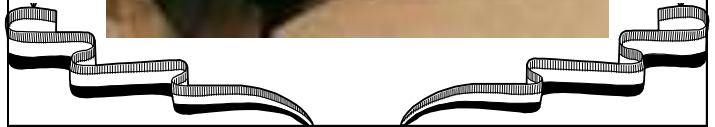
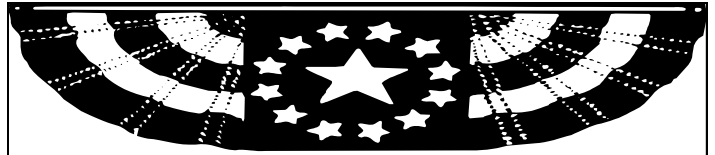


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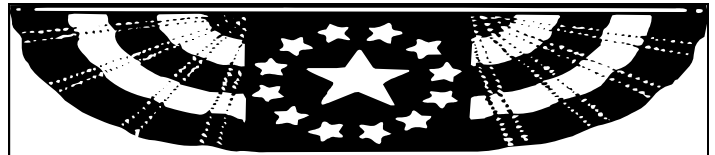


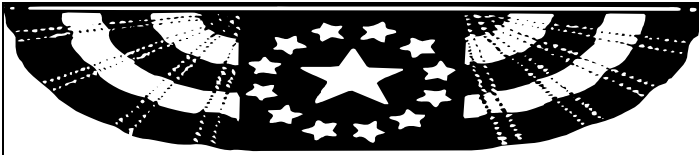


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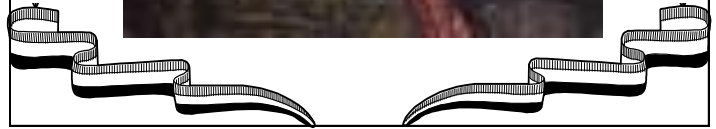
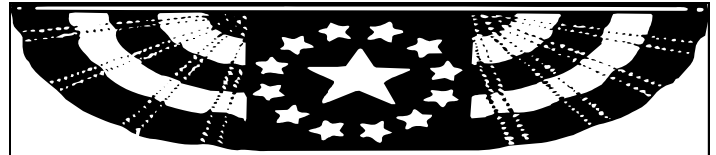


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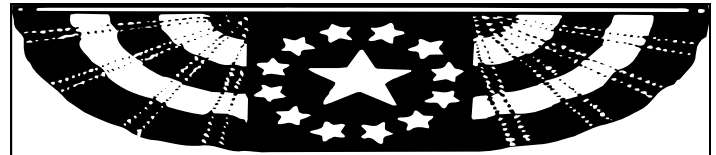


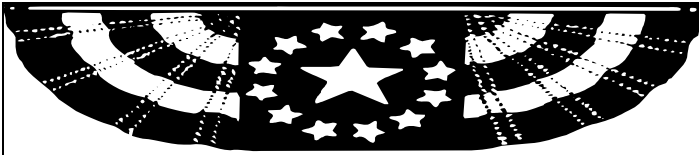


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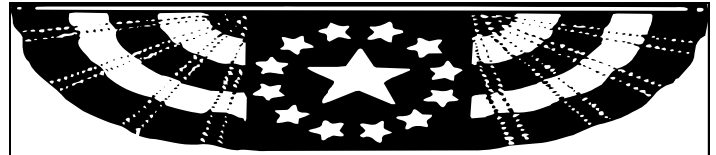


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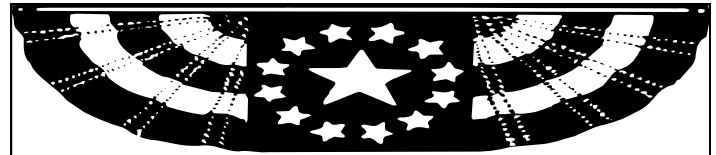


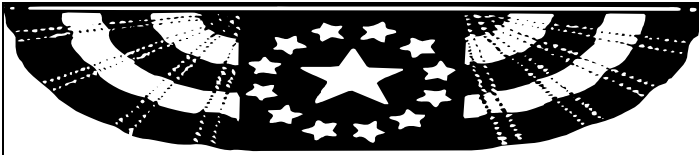


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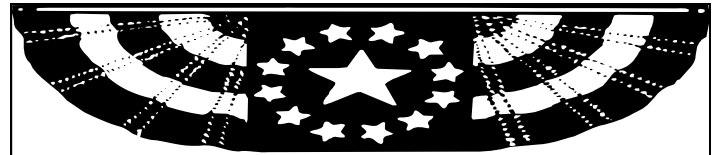





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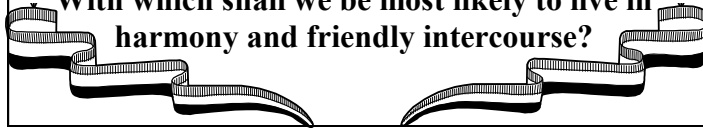
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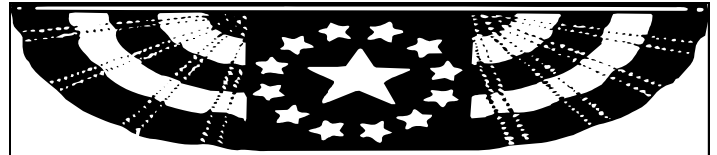


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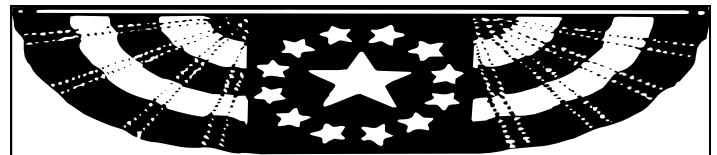
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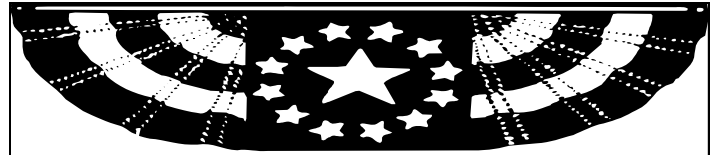


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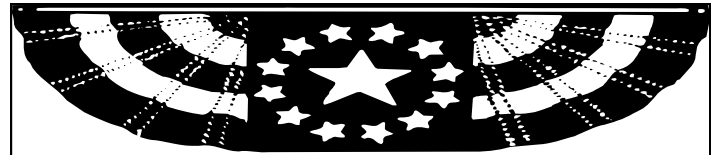
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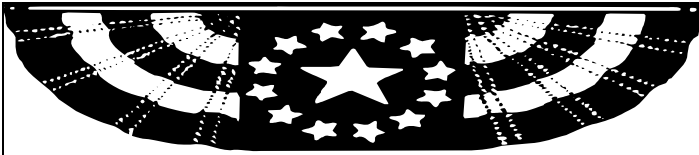


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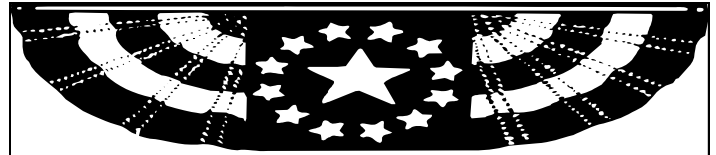


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with America.”**



**Our public interest depends on
private character, on civic duty and
family bonds and basic fairness, on
uncounted, unhonored acts of decency
which give direction to our freedom.**

