THE 2021 Inauguration

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be sworn into office on Jan. 20, 2021 in a scaled-down inauguration that will look different from past years because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 2021 inauguration will emulate aspects of the 2020 Democratic National Committee, which was held nearly entirely virtually. Festivities will be limited to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The live audience will be limited to members of the United States Congress and, for each, one guest of their choosing, resembling a State of the Union address.

1. COVID-19 Memorial
The inauguration committee will host a memorial to those who lost their lives to COVID-19. The memorial ceremony in Washington, D.C. will feature a lighting around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

2. Vice President’s Swearing In Ceremony
Kamala Harris will be sworn in first on the west side of the Capitol building.

3. President’s Swearing In Ceremony
Joe Biden will be sworn in on the west side of the Capitol building.

4. Inaugural Address
Biden will deliver an inaugural address that is expected to detail how he will handle the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy and unite the country, according to the Presidential Inauguration Committee.

5. Pass in Review
Biden and Harris and their spouses will participate in a Pass in Review, a military tradition that reflects the peaceful transfer of power and will include every branch of the military. Biden will review the readiness of the troops and be escorted to the White House by members of the military.

6. Virtual Inaugural Parade
Instead of a traditional parade and inaugural balls, the inaugural committee will host a virtual parade, which is expected to be similar to the virtual programming during the 2020 Democratic National Convention. The event will feature Americans across the country along with musical acts and poets to pay tribute to frontline workers during the pandemic.

Think it Through

1. How would you change the inauguration events or would you change them at all?
2. Why is having a peaceful transition of power important to a democracy?
3. What inauguration event would you like to attend, and why?