

Presidential Oath of Office

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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."

The theme for the **2009 Inauguration** is "A New Birth Of Freedom".

Inauguration Swearing-In Ceremony 2009

The oath of office will be administered to the President-elect and the Vice President-elect on the steps of the United States Capitol in Washington, DC on January 20, 2009 beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Presidential Inauguration Committee has announced the official program for the inaugural swearing-in ceremony as follows:

Musical Selections

The United States Marine Band
The San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

Invocation

Dr. Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA

Musical Selection

Aretha Franklin

Oath of Office Administered to Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

By Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, The Honorable John Paul Stevens

Musical Selection, John Williams, composer/arranger

Itzhak Perlman (*Violin*), Yo-Yo Ma (*Cello*), Gabriela Montero (*Piano*), Anthony McGill (*Clarinet*)

Oath of Office Administered to President-elect Barack H. Obama

By the Chief Justice of the United States, The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.

Inaugural Address

The President of the United States, The Honorable Barack H. Obama

Poem

Elizabeth Alexander

Benediction

The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

The National Anthem

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters"

Additional websites include

The District of Columbia Presidential Inauguration 2009 site at <http://www.inauguration.dc.gov/index.asp>

The Presidential Inaugural Committee website at <http://www.pic2009.org/>

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugurations website at <http://inaugural.senate.gov/>

President Barack Obama

'Barack Obama (born August 4, 1961 -) will be the 44th President of the United States of America. He was elected President on November 4, 2008, as a Democrat. His Vice-President running mate was Joseph Biden. Barack Obama is the first African-American president of the USA.

Obama was born in Hawaii. His father, also called Barack Obama, was a college student from Kogelo, a village in western Kenya, a country in Africa. His mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, was from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They met when they were both students at the University of Hawaii. His parents divorced in 1964, and his mother and maternal grandparents raised Barack. In 1967, Obama's mother married Lolo Soetoro, and moved the family to Indonesia. His half sister, Maya Soetoro, was born on Aug. 15, 1970. In 1971, Obama moved back to Hawaii to go to school, living with his grandparents. That year, Obama's father visited him in Hawaii; Barack would never see his father again.

After graduating high school in 1979, Obama attended Occidental College in Los Angeles, [California](#). After two years, Obama transferred to Columbia University (in New York, New York), graduating in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. His father had died the previous year (1982) in a car accident in Nairobi, Kenya.

In 1985, Obama moved to Chicago, Illinois, and worked as a community organizer, helping people improve their lives and become voters. In 1987, Obama travelled to Kenya, visiting his father's home town and meeting many of his relatives.

The next year, 1988, Obama enrolled at Harvard Law school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was elected the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review (a very prestigious magazine about law, edited by Harvard law students) in 1990, and graduated in 1991.

After graduating from law school, Obama moved back to Chicago, got married and entered politics. Michelle Robinson (an attorney) and Obama married in 1992; they have two daughters, Malia and Sasha. Obama's mother died of cancer in 1995. Obama taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago from 1992 until 2004. He was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996, 1998, and 2002 (he lost a primary election for Congress in 2000). Obama was elected to the US Senate in 2004 (Dem-IL). Obama has written two books, *Dreams from My Father* (1995) and *The Audacity of Hope* (2006).



In the summer of 2008, Obama became the first African-American to be the presidential candidate of a major political party (the Democrats). On November 4, 2008, Obama won the general election, defeating John McCain (a Republican) to become the 44th President of the United States.

Barack Obama Timeline

Year	Event
1961	Born Aug. 4, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to Barack Obama Sr. and Stanley Ann Dunham
1964	Parents divorce
1967	Obama's mother married Lolo Soetoro, moved family to Indonesia
1970	Sister Maya Soetoro born, Aug. 15
1971-1979	Obama moved back to Hawaii for 5th grade through high school, lived mostly with grandparents
1971	Obama Sr. visited his son in Hawaii
1979	Attended Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, for 2 years
1981	Transferred to Columbia University, NY
1982	Father died in car crash at age 46, in Nairobi, Kenya
1983	Received BA in Political Science from Columbia Univ., worked in New York City
1985	Moved to Chicago, IL, worked as community organizer
1987	Visited Kenya and his father's grave
1988	Enrolled at Harvard Law School
1990	Elected editor of Harvard Law Review (first African-American elected to the position)
1991	Graduated from Harvard Law School
1992	Married attorney Michelle Robinson, Oct. 18
1993	Began lecturing at University of Chicago Law School and working at a law firm
1995	Mother died of cancer, age 52
1996	Elected to the Illinois state senate (first term)
1998	Re-elected to the Illinois state senate (second term)
1999	Daughter Malia born
2000	Lost Illinois Democratic primary election for US House of Representatives seat
2001	Daughter Sasha born
2002	Re-elected to the Illinois state senate (third term)
2005	Obama's first book, <i>Dreams from My Father</i> , published
2004	Elected to the US Senate (IL-Dem)
2006	Obama's second book, <i>The Audacity of Hope</i> , published
2008	Won Democratic Party presidential primary election process, June. Officially nominated by the Democratic party at August Convention (first African-American to win a major party nomination)
2008	Elected 44th President of the USA on Nov. 4 (first African-American elected to the position)

The Seal of the President of the USA



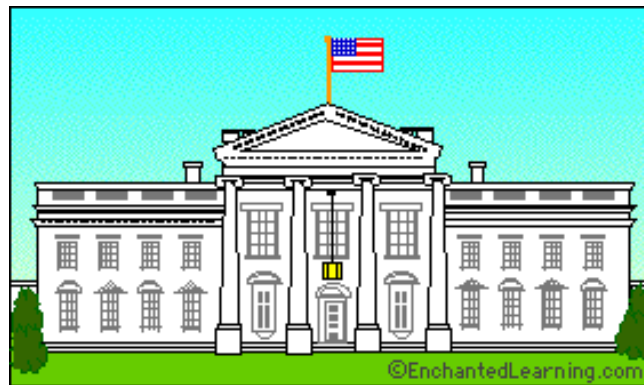
The seal of the President of the United States of America is based upon the Great Seal of the USA. The Presidential seal pictures an American bald eagle holding a ribbon in its beak; the ribbon has the motto of the USA, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," meaning "Out of many, one." The eagle is clutching an olive branch (with 13 olives and 13 leaves) in one foot (symbolizing peace) and 13 arrows in the other (the 13 stands for the original 13 colonies and the arrows symbolize the acceptance of the need to go to war to protect the country).

A shield is in front of the eagle; the shield has 13 red and white stripes (representing the original 13 colonies) with a blue bar above it (it symbolizes the uniting of the 13 colonies and represents congress).

Above the eagle are 13 white clouds, 13 white stars, and many tiny stars. 50 white stars surround the eagle in a circle (on a deep blue field). The words, "Seal of the President of the United States" surround the seal (on a tan field).

The first President who used a presidential seal was Rutherford B. Hayes; in 1880, Hayes used the seal for White House invitations. US President Harry Truman had the seal redesigned on October 26, 1945, adding the circle of stars and re-orienting the eagle towards the right (the side with the olive branch).

The White House



The White House is the official residence of the President of the United States of America, and has been for over 200 years. It is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., the capital city of the USA.

The Design and Construction of the White House: The White House was designed by the Irish-American architect James Hoban, who had won a architectural design competition in 1792. Hoban's design is said to have been very similar to a plan from James Gibbs' "Book of Architecture" (published in 1728). Extra pavilions and porticos (ornamental, deck-like structures with columns supporting a roof) were added to the White House later; they were designed by the architect Benjamin Latrobe (who also designed the United States Capitol).

The White House was originally built from 1792 to 1800; it was constructed by paid and slave laborers, including stonemasons brought in from Scotland. It was burned down by British soldiers during the War of 1812, but was rebuilt from 1815 to 1817.

The Presidents and the White House: The first US President to live in the White House was John Adams (the second President of the USA). Adams and his family moved to the White House in 1800. They had previously lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (which had been the temporary capital of the USA while Washington, D.C., was being built). When the Adams family moved into the White House, the interior of the building was not quite finished. Construction was completed during Thomas Jefferson's term (1801-1809).

Improvements to the White House: In the 1850's, a stove was added to the White House; previously, food had been cooked in fireplaces. The first telephone was wired into the White House during the term of Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881). Electricity was added to the White House during the Benjamin Harrison administration (1889-1893).

The one-story West Wing offices were built during the term of Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, in 1901-1902 (they were added because his large family had taken over the second floor offices for family space, so more temporary office space was needed).

President William Howard Taft remodeled the President's office in 1909, changing it into an oval-shaped room, creating the Oval Office in the center of the West Wing.

Between 1948 and 1952, during the Harry Truman administration, the White House was completely remodeled after it was found to be structurally unsound. Steel framing was added to strengthen the walls, but the original rooms were reconstructed.

Facts and Figures about the White House:

Address of the White House	1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, District of Columbia, USA
Architect	James Hoban
Style of architecture	Georgian Neoclassical
Years of original construction	From 1792 to 1800
First President to live in the White House	John Adams
Date of reconstruction	From 1815 to 1817 (after it was burned down by British soldiers during the War of 1812)
Number of rooms	132
Square footage of the building	55,000 square feet
Height	70 ft
Width	170 feet (51 meters) not counting the porticos
Depth	85 feet (25.5 meters)
Amount of land	18 acres
Official White House Web Site	http://www.WhiteHouse.gov

Presidential Qualities

NAME: _____ Date _____

What do you think are the most important qualities a president should have (and why)?

If I Were the President

Write about what you'd do if you were the President. How would you change the world?
