



## Maggie's Civics Corner

### Special Lesson – The Inauguration

#### Maggie Says...

*After the president and vice president are elected, there is an important ceremony to officially make them the new leaders of our country. I think big ceremonies are exciting, and this one is especially important!*

**Today's lesson is about the Inauguration:** *The Inauguration is more than just a big party to celebrate the new president. The Constitution requires the president to make a very serious promise called the Oath of Office during the Inauguration. The Oath of Office says that the new president promises to do the best they can at being president and to promise to protect and defend the Constitution. The vice president also makes this promise, and the new president usually gives a speech afterward to tell the country what they plan to do as president.*

**Sticky Situation:** Imagine that you chose someone to lead you and your friends through a maze that is filled with all kinds of distractions, surprises, scary traps, and toys and prizes. You are relying on your leader to help you get out, but you didn't make them promise that they would try to get everyone out instead of looking for toys and prizes. Do you think they could get distracted and forget that they are responsible for getting everyone in the group out of the maze?

**The Purpose of the Inauguration:** The Inauguration of the new president and vice president takes place on the January 20<sup>th</sup> after each presidential election. The Constitution (the supreme law of the land) says that the president must take the Oath of Office at the Inauguration and before becoming president, but the rest of the ceremony is based on traditions. Usually, the president who is leaving walks with the new president to the front of the U.S. Capitol, where the president will take their Oath and make a speech. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court traditionally leads the president through the Oath of Office. Once the new president is done, they then usually give a speech telling the country about how they will lead it for the next 4 years.

**Activity:** Think about when you have had to make a promise in the past. How many people did you have to make the promise to? Did you have to promise it in front of other people? Do you think that making a promise to millions of people and in front of everyone in the world would make you more likely to keep it? This will help you understand why we have the president make a very serious promise in front of the country before they start their new job.

**Civic Resources:** To learn more about the Inauguration and how it works, check out: [https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson219.shtml/](https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson219.shtml/).