

A photograph of Joe Biden and Jill Biden standing in the doorway of the White House. Joe Biden is on the left, wearing a dark suit, a black face mask, and black gloves, with his right arm raised in a wave. Jill Biden is on the right, wearing a teal jacket, a teal face mask, and teal gloves, with her left arm raised in a wave. The background shows the ornate white columns and door of the White House.

**The  
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# INAUGURATION

## PART 1: IN THE KNOW

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## LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

Check out this week's  
introduction video

[bit.ly/NewsCycle](https://bit.ly/NewsCycle)

## KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on  
this week's News Cycle

[bit.ly/NewsCycleJan26](https://bit.ly/NewsCycleJan26)

## KEY VOCABULARY

**INAUGURATION CEREMONY** =  
the ceremony marking the  
start of a new presidency

**SWORN IN** =  
when the president and  
vice-president make  
promises to serve America

**OATH OF OFFICE** =  
the promises a president  
and vice-president must  
make to America

# NEWS CYCLE

## WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

### New president, new start.



Just before noon on January 20th, Joe Biden took the presidential oath of office. Kamala Harris was also sworn in to become the first woman, the first black person and the first South Asian to become vice-president - marking a new chapter for the country.

The inauguration ceremony, which took place in front of the Capitol building in Washington, was smaller than usual because of covid-19 restrictions and security was "extra-tight". Just two weeks before, supporters of the outgoing president Donald Trump stormed the Capitol in a deadly riot following Mr Trump's baseless claims of election fraud.

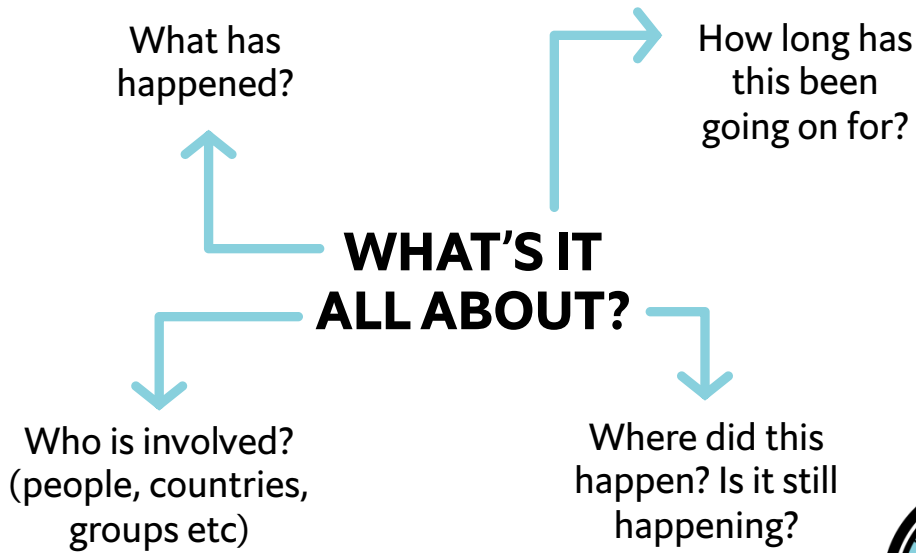
In his speech, President Biden addressed the divide in the American people, promising to be a president "for all Americans" - including those who did not vote for him. "Democracy has prevailed...my whole soul is in putting America back together again," he said.

This message was echoed by 22-year-old Amanda Gorman, the youngest poet ever to perform at an inauguration. Her poem, "The Hill We Climb", was broadcast around the world and called for "unity and togetherness" in America.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by previous presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. However, Donald Trump was not present - breaking the long tradition of the outgoing president witnessing the new president's inauguration.

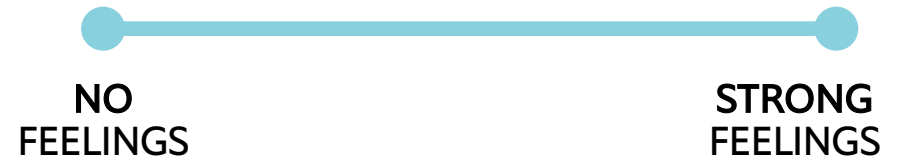
On his first day as president, Mr Biden ended a travel ban from majority-Muslim countries, rejoined the Paris climate agreement and set clear rules about wearing masks in government buildings.

Watch the highlights from the day here: [bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-55742433](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-55742433)



## NEWS SCALE

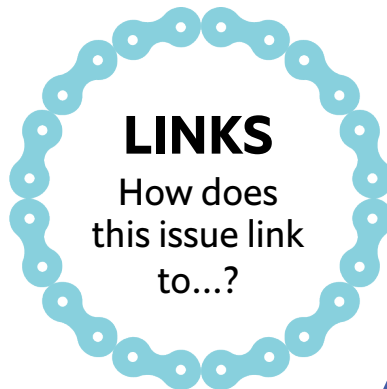
How do you feel about Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's inauguration? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about the leader of a different country? Where would they put their X? What about an American who didn't vote in the election?



*A school subject?*

*NEWS CONCEPT: justice?*

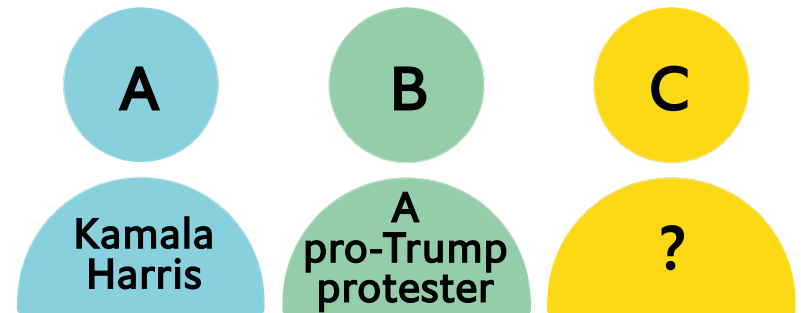
*A different news story?*



*NEWS CONCEPT: democracy?*

## PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



**CHALLENGE:** how is this issue developing in the news?



A photograph of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris at the inauguration ceremony. Joe Biden, on the left, is wearing a dark suit and a black face mask, and is holding a pair of black gloves. Kamala Harris, on the right, is wearing a blue jacket and is smiling while putting the gloves on Biden's hands. The background is a bright, outdoor setting with other people visible in the distance.

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# INAUGURATION

## PART 2: THINKING HARDER

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## LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

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introduction video

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## KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on  
this week's News Cycle

[bit.ly/NewsCycleFeb2](https://bit.ly/NewsCycleFeb2)

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

# WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

## KEY VOCABULARY

**EXECUTIVE ORDER** = a rule or order made by the president

By the end of his time as president, only 34% of Americans approved of Donald Trump's performance. He will shortly go through his second impeachment trial. If he is convicted, it will be much harder for him to run for president again in 2024.



The president's Cabinet is the group of people who will help him to make decisions. Mr Biden's cabinet is the most diverse in American history. Two-thirds of the people he has chosen are women, non-white people or part of the LGBTQ+ community.



Mr Trump told his supporters that the election was rigged. Now some people do not accept Joe Biden as president. President Biden responded to this in his speech, saying ***"There is truth and there are lies. Lies told for power and for profit...We must end this uncivil war."***



The first executive order Mr Biden signed was to boost America's response to the covid-19 pandemic. Other orders tackle climate change and champion race and gender equality.



In her first speech as vice-president, Kamala Harris called for Americans ***"to unite"*** and ***"to believe in what we can do together."***







## TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than an inauguration ceremony. Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Which should be Mr Biden's top priority? Responding to the pandemic, tackling climate change or championing race and gender equality. Why?
3. Look at the facts on the previous page.
  - Will Mr Biden's first year be easy? Why / why not?
  - Why are Mr Biden's first days in office important?

**Support your answers with a fact and explain why.**

## SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



Can you sum up what you've heard so far?



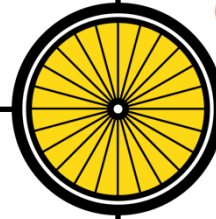
What do you think about this story? Is there anything that would change your mind?



What might Ms Harris want to achieve as vice-president?



What advice would you give to Mr Biden for his first 100 days in office?



## PUSH YOURSELF

**Just hours after becoming president, Mr Biden signed 15 executive orders - many of which reversed some of Mr Trump's policies.**

In a statement Mr Biden said that he would "take action - not just to reverse the gravest damages of the Trump administration - but also to start moving our country forward."

- Is it fair for a president to reverse something a previous president has done? Why / why not?
- Will this unify people or divide them? Why?

## TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



Some of Mr Trump's supporters never accept Mr Biden as president?



Mr Biden and Ms Harris disagree on what to do?



More women and non-white people are inspired to engage with politics?

**Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?**