

# George Washington's Inauguration & the First Presidential Cabinet

## George Washington's Inauguration

**Inauguration** - to be sworn in as the President of the United States

- Presidents must take the **Oath of Office** administered by the Chief Justice (judicial branch)  
“I, (name), do solemnly swear 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...**so help me God**”
  - Sets a precedent (example for others to follow)
  - Every president after George Washington has added those four words.
- First Presidential Oath was taken in **New York City**

## Inauguration Today

- Held on **January 20th** (per 20th Amendment) in **Washington, D.C.** in front of the nation's capital

## Republican Motherhood

- First Lady Martha Washington was challenged because many women believed she should have taken a more active role in politics.
- Women are responsible for raising honest and educated citizens

## President's Advisors & Cabinet

**Vice President:** John Adams

- VP used to be the runner up in the election
- Now, VP is chosen by candidate as a running mate prior to election (per 12th Amendment)

**Department of State** - Symbol: Flag

- Responsibility: Establishes relationships with foreign nations
- Secretary of State: **Thomas Jefferson** (Anti-Federalist)

**Department of Treasury** - Symbol: Dollar Bill

- Responsibility: Collects taxes and prints money
- Secretary of Treasury: **Alexander Hamilton** (Federalist; Washington's aide)

**Department of War** - Symbol: Cannon

- Responsibility: Protects our country from attack
- Secretary of War: **Henry Knox** (Fort Knox - one of the most protected areas)

**Attorney General** - Symbol: Scale / Gavel

- Responsibility: Serves as our country's chief lawyer
- Attorney General: **Edmund Randolph** (proposed the Virginia Plan)

**Postmaster General** - Symbol: Envelope

- Responsibility: Makes sure our nation's mail/communication system runs smoothly
- Postmaster General: **Samuel Osgood** (gave up his home in New York to become the first executive mansion)