



Picture News

Advanced

25th January 2021

What's going on this week?



On 20th January, Joe Biden became the 46th President of the United States, taking over from his predecessor, Donald Trump. The inauguration ceremony took place last week, marking the start of the new president's time in charge. Usually, the outgoing president attends to welcome in the next president, but this year Mr Trump did not attend the event.

In the oath taken at the ceremony, Joe Biden promised to the American people to do his best to protect the country and do a good job of being their leader. Since his victory was announced in November 2020, Biden has reached out to Trump supporters, 'It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again... And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as enemies.'

This week's news story: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55600682

This week's useful video: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54855329



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Main question:

What makes a good leader?

Listen, think, share

- Read through this week's story. Share what we already know about new US President, Joe Biden, and former president, Donald Trump. Do you think things in the US will be different with a new leader? What do you think might change?
- Thinking about leaders in the UK, discuss your thoughts on how the current pandemic is being handled by leaders. Considering different areas, e.g. the economy, schools, healthcare – do you think some are being led better than others? Explain your reasons.
- Talk about the different places where we find leaders, e.g. at school, at afterschool clubs, of our country. Can you think of any traits that these people have in common?
- How important is it to have leaders? Can you imagine a situation where leaders were taken away? What would the consequences be?
- Have you ever experienced or learnt about a time where there has been poor or even damaging leadership? How did it affect others? What impact did it have?
- Talk about different types of leadership styles. Can you think of a leader you may have found to be a successful leader? What qualities did they show? Do you think that to be considered a successful leader, you need to be liked? In 1939, psychologist Kurt Lewin and a team of researchers determined that there were three basic leadership styles, **Authoritarian**, in charge, telling people what to do, **Participative**, giving all a voice and **Delegative**, hands-off approach, letting people make their own decisions. Do you think one of these styles is better or more effective than the others, or do you think they all have their place? Write a list of pros and cons for each style. Can you think of any other types of leadership style?
- Former South African President, Nelson Mandela, once said, 'A leader . . . is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.' What do you think he meant by this and do you agree?
- What do you think the difference is between a leader and a follower? Some believe that followers focus on what they can achieve individually whereas leaders are team players, because they know that success is a collective feat. Do you agree?
- Read the following statement: *A leader is only as good as what he or she can achieve through other people.* Do you agree?
- Do you think that being a leader is something that you can learn or be taught, or do you think some people would never want or be able to be successful in leadership? Share your reasons.

Further questions for discussion

- Would you like to be a leader? List the pros and cons of having the responsibility of being a leader.
- Do you need to be experienced to be a good leader? Explain your response.