

# Inaugurating the Republic: Congress and George Washington's First Inaugural Address

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## Worksheet 1: Answer Key

**Question 2:** Consult a dictionary to define each of the unfamiliar words.

Group 1	Vicissitude: <u>A change or variation occurring in the course of something</u> Veneration: <u>A feeling of awe or respect</u> Asylum: <u>A place of refuge</u>
Group 2	Executing: <u>carrying out</u> Remembrance: <u>memory</u> Palliated: <u>relieved</u> Partiality: <u>favor</u>
Group 3	Fervent: <u>sincere</u> Supplications: <u>asking for help</u> Providential: <u>the help of God</u> Benediction: <u>a blessing</u> Consecrate: <u>to make holy</u>
Group 4	Character: <u>a feature or trait</u> Providential: <u>the help of God</u> Agency: <u>to represent or provide a service</u>
Group 5	Tranquil: <u>peaceful</u> Deliberations: <u>careful consideration before a decision</u> Pious: <u>with reverence for God</u>
Group 6	Behold: <u>see</u> Prejudices: <u>unfavorable opinions</u> Animosities: <u>strong feelings of dislike</u> Exemplified: <u>illustrated</u> Attributes: <u>qualities</u>
Group 7	Indissoluble: <u>can't be dissolved</u> Maxims: <u>expressions of principles</u> Magnanimous: <u>generous</u> Felicity: <u>happiness</u> Propitious: <u>favorable</u> Ordained: <u>destined</u>
Group 8	Expedient: <u>proper under the circumstances</u> Juncture: <u>a point in time</u> Inquietude: <u>restlessness</u>

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Group 9	Discernment: <u>judgement</u> Whilst: <u>while</u> Reverence: <u>respect</u>
Group 10	Benign: <u>kindly</u> Supplication: <u>prayer</u> Deliberating: <u>considering</u> Conspicuous: <u>easily seen</u>

**Question 3:** Fill the blanks in the following version of the excerpt by inserting short versions of the definitions.

Group 1	Among the <b><u>changes</u></b> incident to life, no event could have filled me with greater anxieties...I was summoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with <b><u>awe, respect</u></b> and love, from a retreat which I had chosen ... as the <b><u>refuge</u></b> of my declining years.
Group 2	All I dare hope, is, that, if in <b><u>carrying out</u></b> this task I have been too much swayed by a grateful <b><u>memory</u></b> of former instances, ...of the confidence of my fellow-citizens; ... my error will be <b><u>made less</u></b> by the motives which misled me, and its consequences be judged by my Country, with some share of the <b><u>favor</u></b> in which they originated.
Group 3	It would be... improper to omit in this first official Act, my <b><u>sincere request for help</u></b> to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose <b><u>divine</u></b> aids can supply every human defect, that his <b><u>blessing</u></b> may <b><u>make holy</u></b> to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes: and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success, the functions allotted to his charge.
Group 4	No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the <b><u>feature</u></b> of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of <b><u>divine service</u></b> .
Group 5	And in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their United Government, the <b><u>peaceful considerations</u></b> and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most Governments have been established, without some return of <b><u>reverent</u></b> gratitude.

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Group 6	I <u>see</u> the surest pledges, that ... no local <u>unfavorable opinions</u> or attachments; no separate views, nor party <u>feelings of dislike</u> , will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over (Congress) this great assemblage of communities and interests: ... (The) foundations of our National policy will ... be <u>illustrated</u> by all the <u>qualities</u> which can win the affections of its Citizens, and command the respect of the world.
Group 7	There is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an <u>unbreakable</u> union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine <u>principles</u> of an honest and <u>generous</u> policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and <u>happiness</u> : Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the <u>favorable</u> smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has <u>destined</u> ...
Group 8	It will remain with your (Congress') judgment to decide, how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the Fifth article of the Constitution is rendered <u>proper under the circumstances</u> at the present <u>time</u> by the nature of objections which have been urged against the System, or by the degree of <u>restlessness</u> which has given birth to them.
Group 9	I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your (Congress') <u>judgement</u> and pursuit of the public good: For I assure myself that <u>while</u> you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an United and effective Government, a <u>respect</u> for the characteristic rights of freemen, and a regard for the public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations...
Group 10	I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the <u>kind</u> parent of the human race, in humble <u>prayer</u> that since he has been pleased to favour the American people, with opportunities for <u>considering</u> ...on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally <u>be seen</u> in the ... the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

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**Question 5:** Briefly summarize the idea President Washington was conveying to his audience.

Group 1	I was not seeking to be president, but I was called out of retirement by my country.
Group 2	As president, I hope I continue to have the public's full support, but if I make mistakes please know that my intentions are good (and remember that you supported me in the past).
Group 3	It is important to remember God, and may His blessing help the government successfully focus on the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States.
Group 4	Americans must acknowledge the guidance of the "invisible hand" and divine assistance in establishing an independent nation.
Group 5	People should thank God when they compare the peaceful revolution of the United States under the Constitution with how other governments have been formed.
Group 6	I feel confident that local views and party politics will not prevent Congress from doing the important work of the people, and the foundation of our national government will serve as a role model to the rest of the world.
Group 7	With hard work and honesty comes prosperity and happiness; the nation can not be successful if it disregards that truth.
Group 8	Congress will need to decide if it should amend the Constitution to bring about public peace.
Group 9	I trust Congress, and am confident that Congress will respect the rights of the people and act in the best interest of the nation.
Group 10	With God's blessing the American people have the opportunities to decide their own form of government; and may His blessing also ensure the government's success.

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