**Top Trump.**

*by Eastwood High School News Report.*

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On Friday 20th January 2017 in The United States of America, Donald John Trump took an oath made by 44 other men before him in order to become the 45th President of America. It was the culmination of an often controversial journey which saw Trump transform from TV star to political leader.

At his inauguration, attended by hundreds of thousands of American citizens, Donald J. Trump vowed to put “America first”. It was a message which both pleased his supporters and dismayed his doubters but one which he is determined to follow through. The day itself was one of celebration for Trump and his supporters, however he entered the White House with the lowest approval rating of any incoming President in history with only 40% of Americans being pleased with his appointment. As a result, whilst many turned out to celebrate their new president, thousands also took to the streets to protest their new leader.

**Who is Donald Trump?**

Donald J. Trump was born on the 14th of June 1946 in New York City to his father Frederickand his mother Mary Anne who was born in Stornoway in Scotland. He has made his fortune in business after his father provided Donald with what he referred to as a “small loan” of $1 Million Dollars. He has founded many companies in his career including The Trump Organisation, Trump University, Trump Entertainment Resorts and Trump Model Management. He is also known for his appearances on television, having been the host of America’s version of ‘The Apprentice’ and appearing in movies, including ‘Home Alone 2: Lost in New York’.

As well as being a busy businessman, Trump is also a father to fivechildren, has eight grandchildren and has had a total of three marriages. Trump met his current wife and new First Lady of The United States of America, Melania Trump, who was born in the southeast of Slovenia (previously Yugoslavia), at a Fashion Week party in New York City in September 1998. Having become a globally known name, Trump decided to run for President on 16 June 2015 when he announced “I am officially running for president of the United States and we are going to make our country great again".

**The Race to become President**

Trump would eventually go on to win his party’s nomination and become the Republican candidate for the 2016 Presidential election alongside his ‘running-mate’ and new Vice President, Mike Pence. Having won this nomination, Trump went on to face Hillary Clinton of the Democratic Party with the vote taking place on Tuesday 8th November. During the months before the vote, Hillary Clinton was seen as the favourite, with The Independent reporting four days before the election that Hillary had a 6.1 per cent lead over rival Donald Trump with 48.9 per cent of voters saying they would back Ms Clinton, compared to 42.8 per cent who were backing Trump. These figures had been released by TrumpxClinton, an election tracker which took a rolling average of all major polls. However, Trump would not be denied and instead won the election with a total of 306 Electoral Collage seats passing the 270 needed to become president. Hillary could only manage to gain 232 seats and had to concede defeat the next day.

In the election over 100 million American’s cast their vote, with more citizens voting for Hillary than Trump. However, due to the American voting system, the total of number of votes is only known as the ‘popular vote’ and what is more important is the amount of ‘Electoral Collage votes’ received. Each state has a certain amount of electoral votes, for example Florida has 29 votes whilst Delaware only has three. The winning candidate needs to achieve 270 of these electoral votes and therefore can lose the popular vote if they win the states which give the largest proportion of electoral votes. This system then aided Trump in his victory, as he won key states including Florida by 49.1% to Clinton’s 47.8% whilst 3.1% of those in Florida voted for another candidate.

Trump also won Pennsylvania (20 electoral seats) 48.8% to Clinton’s 47.6% and Ohio (18 seats) 52.1% to 43.5%. It was by campaigning to win these key ‘battlegrounds’ that Trump was able to become the 45th President of America. Trump also proved more popular than Hillary with male voters as 53% of men voted for him, however 54% of woman voted for Hillary. On the evening of his victory, Trump claimed “America will no longer settle for anything less than the best. We must reclaim our country's destiny and dream big and bold and daring”. However, Trump had to wait until 20th January 2017 to become the ‘Commander-in-Chief’ as America worked on a successful and peaceful transition of power from Barack H. Obama to their new President Donald J. Trump.

**The Inauguration**

On the day of Trump’s Inauguration, which had an impressive global television audience, Trump reiterated his most iconic quote; “We will make America great again!”, and promised that “from now on, it will be America first”. With his wife by his side, he took the Presidential Oath, and with his right hand to God and his left hand on the bible, he promised to serve the American people, “so help me God”.

Since the 13th of January, Donald Trump has begun passing new laws which are dividing opinion, with his supporters praising his decisions whilst others claim the laws are very controversial and divisive. Despite the fact his next move is unknown; his first few weeks in office have shown that Trump is a man of action. Americans and the wider world wait with baited breath to see what the next four years of his presidency will bring.

*This article will also be available on our school website in the coming days. To access, please search for ‘BBC School Report’ on the schools website (*[*https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Eastwood*](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Eastwood)*) and click the first result. Also available on line will be a selection of interviews about Donald Trump, featuring Eastwood High School Teachers.*

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