

Computer Capers

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Inaugural Itinerary

History will be made on January 20, 2009 in Washington D.C., at the 56th Presidential Inauguration. Wouldn't you like to be there? Pretend that you were chosen to be a representative from Indiana and that you and your family could travel to D.C. for the festivities. Use a word processor to plan out your trip. Begin with the day you leave to travel there and end with your trip home. Create a daily list and description of all the events that you would attend. What you would see? Where does the event take place? Who will be in attendance? What will you pack to take with you? etc. Add as many realistic details as possible. Use the official inaugural website: <http://inaugural.senate.gov/2009/> to gather accurate information.

What an exciting time in our country's history! Even if you cannot actually attend, enjoy all the media coverage from your home just as if you were actually in attendance. Can you watch any of the events that you "planned" on attending?

Indiana Language Arts Standard: 8.5.5 Write technical documents that:

- identify the sequence of activities needed to design a system, operate a tool, or explain the bylaws of an organization's constitution or guidelines.
- include all the factors and variables that need to be considered.
- use formatting techniques, including headings and changing the fonts (typeface) to aid comprehension.



Do Good Things Really Come in Small Packages?



Have some fun with this old saying and see if there are any statistical data that support it based on your own experience and analysis. Think back to last month and recall a few of the gifts that you gave or received during the month. Did the size of the box have any correlation to the desire for or value of the gift? Begin a spreadsheet and create a list of at least 10 gifts that you exchanged. Next, locate the gift box and measure the length, width, and height of each box. Record the measurements in columns B, C, and D. Next, create a formula that will calculate the volume of the box in column E. Finally, give the gift a rating using a 1-10 scale (1 being least desired, 10, the greatest ever). Finally, create a graph of your data that displays the gift box volume in comparison to the gift rating.

Based on your graph, would you say, "Good Things Come in Small Packages"? Why or why not? What size boxes will you hope for next year?

Indiana Mathematics Standard 5.5.4 Find the surface area and volume of rectangular solids using appropriate units. 5.3.7 Use information taken from a graph or equation to answer questions about a problem situation.

Message for Mozart



Mozart

On the 27th of this month, in 1756, Mozart was born. What do you know about this famous classical composer? Begin by learning a few things about him either by going to the library and checking out some books and CDs, or have your parents help you find some information online. Next, use a word processor or drawing program to create a birthday card or sign to celebrate his special day. Don't forget to include his full name on your card and decorate it with musical symbols that he would have liked. Can you figure out how old he would be this year? If so, include that number in your design. Find some music composed by him and listen to it while you are designing your card. Can you recognize any instruments used in the piece? Are there similarities among the pieces? Enjoy listening to the amazing Amadeus on this historic day.

Indiana Fine Arts: Music Standard 2.6: Students identify similarities and differences in music using movement and musical terms. They recognize groups of classroom and orchestral instruments. They identify and demonstrate appropriate listening behavior.