

# Talking to Your Children

## *John F. Kennedy's Assassination*



John F. Kennedy was elected president of the United States in 1960. He won the election to his presidency by the closest margin in U.S. history. Throughout his presidency he faced many issues, both foreign and domestic, including the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba and the Cuban missile crisis with the Soviet Union. At home, he addressed issues such as the Space Race and civil rights concerns.

In November of 1963, Kennedy traveled to Dallas, Texas, to tour the state with Governor John Connally. It is believed his goal was to attempt to win over the Texas voters for the upcoming 1964 presidential election.

While traveling by convertible in downtown Dallas at 12:30 p.m., Kennedy was shot. Connally also was shot twice. Kennedy was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he later died. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was from Texas and had also made the trip to Dallas, took the Oath of Office while aboard Air Force One (SAM 26000). The swearing in occurred at 2:38 p.m., less than two hours after Kennedy was assassinated.



It was determined that the shot that killed President Kennedy was fired from the window of a book depository in Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas and the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald was never tried for his crime as he too was shot, by local nightclub owner Jack Ruby, as he left the Dallas jail.

There has been a great deal of controversy about the Kennedy assassination. Some believe that Oswald did not act alone. Others believe that groups including communists and organized crime leaders plotted to kill Kennedy.

In order to address these concerns, the Warren Commission was formed to investigate the assassination and provide their findings to the public so that questions could be put to rest. Although still questioned by some, the Commission found that there were no other shooters. Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone and without the assistance of other groups. No definitive reason has been provided for why Oswald assassinated President Kennedy. It has been suggested that Oswald wished to appear the hero to others who held similar his commitment to Marxism and communism. Others argue it was a result of his overall resentment toward authority. In the end, we will not know as Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby before he could be thoroughly interviewed by law enforcement officials.