

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HANDOUT & WORKSHEET

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, outlines the plan of government for the United States of America. It is the oldest Constitution that is still in use today. Three different "branches", or parts, of the government were established, including the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. These three branches of the "federal", or national, government have separate roles and responsibilities, but are equal in their importance and power.

The Executive branch is described in Article II of the Constitution. The main executive officers are the President and Vice-President. They are assisted by a group of advisors, called the Cabinet, who help in running the federal government. The main duty of the Executive branch is to carry out laws. This means to put laws into action. The President lives and works at the White House in Washington, D.C.

The chart below summarizes the most important information about the Executive branch. Read the chart carefully and use the information to answer the questions on page 17B.

MAIN OFFICERS	President and Vice-President Cabinet: appointed by President with Senate approval
LENGTH OF ONE TERM	4 years
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TERMS	No more than two full terms
GROUP WHO ELECTS MAIN OFFICERS	Electoral College
NUMBER OF ELECTORS PER STATE	Equal to the number of its Congressmen
QUALIFICATIONS	-Natural (native) born citizen -At least 35 years of age -Resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years
ORDER OF SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY	-Vice-President -Speaker of the House -President pro tempore of the Senate -Cabinet: in order Department's were established
SELECTION OF A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT	-President nominates a new Vice-President -Approved by majority vote of House and Senate
SPECIAL POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT	-Commander in Chief of the armed forces -Grant pardons and reprieves in federal cases -Must give State of the Union Address once a year -Call special sessions of Congress Senate approval required by majority vote: -Make treaties with foreign countries -Appoint federal officials including Cabinet, Supreme Court Justices and ambassadors
REMOVAL FROM OFFICE	-For "treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors" -Impeached (accused) by majority vote of House -Convicted (found guilty) by 2/3 vote of Senate

DIRECTIONS: Use the information on page 17A to answer the questions below.

PART 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

1. The main duty of the Executive branch is _____.
2. The two main officers of the Executive branch are the _____ and _____.
3. The _____ is a group of presidential advisors.
4. The Executive branch is discussed in Article _____ of the U.S. Constitution.
5. The President is the _____ of the armed forces.

PART 2: MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. If the President and Vice-President die, who becomes President?
A. Secretary of State B. President pro tempore C. Speaker of House
- _____ 2. The length of one term of office for the President is:
A. two years B. four years C. six years
- _____ 3. The Vice-President does all the following EXCEPT:
A. presides over Senate B. vetoes bills C. Takes over if President dies
- _____ 4. If the President is impeached, this means the:
A. Senate has found him guilty B. House has removed him from office
C. House has accused him of wrongdoing
- _____ 5. Which is NOT a qualification to be President?
A. at least 35 years old B. a Senator C. a natural born citizen
- _____ 6. The President can only be convicted in an impeachment trial by the:
A. Senate B. House of Representatives C. Supreme Court
- _____ 7. Which is NOT a power of the President?
A. to declare war B. to grant pardons C. to veto bills
- _____ 8. The number of terms for a President is limited to:
A. one term B. two terms C. three terms
- _____ 9. The Cabinet belongs to which branch of government?
A. Legislative B. Executive C. Judicial
- _____ 10. The President can do all of the following EXCEPT:
A. veto a bill B. send combat troops in emergencies C. impeach a judge

PART 3: TRUE AND FALSE

- _____ 1. The President can appoint a Supreme Court Justice with Senate approval.
- _____ 2. The President must give a State of the Union message once a year.
- _____ 3. The Electoral College is no longer in existence.
- _____ 4. The number of electors per state is based on its number of Congressmen.
- _____ 5. If the President dies, the Speaker of the House becomes Vice-President.
- _____ 6. The President can pardon persons in federal cases.
- _____ 7. A person born in another country who becomes a citizen could be President.
- _____ 8. If the President is impeached, the trial is held in the Senate.
- _____ 9. According to the Constitution, the President must be male.
- _____ 10. The President can call the Congress into special session.

PART 4: OPINION

1. Why do you think the President is limited to two terms?

2. What do you think is the most important power of the President? Explain.

3. Why do you think the President must be a natural born citizen?

