The Executive Branch

Unit 4
Why do you think the presidency is called a Glorious Burden??
Article 2 of the Constitution

Outlines the power of the President

*The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term......*
Article 2 of the Constitution

Explains the Electoral College:

*Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.*
Who assists the President?

When George Washington was President, people recognized that one person could not carry out the duties of the President without advice and assistance.
The President receives help from the:

- Vice President
- Cabinet Members
- Heads of Independent and Executive Agencies.

* Unlike the powers of the President, their responsibilities are not defined in the Constitution.
The Executive Branch

- President
- Cabinet: The Heads of the 15 Executive Departments.
- Federal Agencies: Created by Congress
- Vice President: Member of the President’s Cabinet
The Presidency
Presidency

Qualifications

Native born citizen

At least 35 years old

U.S. Resident for 14 years
Presidency

Term of Office

Elected to a 4 year term

No term limits in the Constitution

22nd Amendment set a 2 term limit
Presidency

Salary and Benefits

$400,000 a year plus $50,000 allowance

Use of Air Force One and a fleet of cars and helicopters

White House and Camp David
The Vice President
Vice President

Qualifications

Must meet same Constitutional requirements as President

Duties and Responsibilities

Takes over if the President dies or is removed from Office

Presides over the Senate

Salary and Benefits

$186,300 annual salary plus $10,000 allowance
Eight U.S. presidents have died while in office. One president resigned. In each case, the vice president took the oath of office and became president as provided by the Constitution.
William H. Harrison, Natural Causes

John Tyler, Vice President
Zachary Taylor, Natural Causes

Millard Fillmore, Vice President
Abraham Lincoln, Assassinated

Andrew Johnson, Vice President
James A. Garfield, Assassinated

Chester Author, Vice President
William McKinley, Assassinated

Theodore Roosevelt, Vice President
Warren Harding, Natural Causes

Calvin Coolidge, Vice President
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Natural Causes

Harry Truman, Vice President
John F. Kennedy
Assassinated

Lyndon Johnson,
Vice President
Twenty-fifth Amendment

• Adopted in 1967
• New president nominates a new Vice President
• Nomination must then be approved by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.
The Order of Presidential Succession

• The Vice President
• The Speaker of the House
• The President *pro tempore* of the Senate
• Members of the president’s cabinet in the order in which their departments were created
# Line of Presidential Succession

1. Vice President
2. Speaker of the House
3. President *pro tempore* of the Senate
4. Secretary of State
5. Secretary of the Treasury
6. Secretary of Defense
7. Attorney General
8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Secretary of Commerce
11. Secretary of Labor
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14. Secretary of Transportation
15. Secretary of Energy
16. Secretary of Education
17. Secretary of Veterans Affairs
18. Secretary of Homeland Security

*The order of this position may change, pending congressional legislation.*

Source: thomas.loc.gov.
Roles of the President
Roles of the President

Chief Executive of the United States
Appoints Cabinet Officers, Ambassadors, Supreme Court Justices and other Federal Judges
Grants reprieves/pardons
Administers the Federal Bureaucracy
Chief Diplomat

Negotiates
Treaties
Commander and Chief

Commands all of the armed forces
Legislative Leader

- Recommends laws to Congress
- Approves or vetoes bills
The State of the Union Address
Head of State

Ceremonial head of the U.S. Government
Representative of the American People
Economic Leader

Prepares and recommends annual budget for Congressional approval
Party Leader

- Leader of his political party
- Helps the party raise money
- Campaigns for party members
Executive Departments
Congress has the power to establish, reorganize and to eliminate executive departments.
Executive Departments
Each department as a specific area of responsibility
Executive Departments

Heads of the Executive Departments make up the President’s Cabinet.
Cabinet

- Not mentioned in the Constitution, but every President has had a Cabinet
- Advise the President and helps implement federal laws
- Title of most cabinet members is secretary
- Head of the Department of Justice is the Attorney General
### The President's Cabinet

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The Executive Departments (Cabinet)

• In 1789, Congress created 3
• Today there are 15 departments
• Each department is headed by a secretary except the Department of Justice (attorney general)
• Departments are divided into subunits. (pg. 426)
Choosing Department Leaders

- Nominated by President, confirmed by the Senate
- Party patronage (campaign influence)
- Professional qualifications
- Regional balance (Geography)
- Interest group pressure
Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions
Independent Agencies

• 150 agencies independent of the Cabinet (not the President)
  – Some do not fit into departments
  – Congress wanted them independent to escape influence
Independent Agencies

- FTC - Federal Trade Commission
- SEC - Securities and Exchange Commission
- FCC - Federal Communications Commission
- SSA - Social Security Administration
- Peace Corps
- FEC - Federal Election Commission
- USPS - United States Postal Service
- FDIC - Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions

• Created by Congress

• Help keep the government and the economy running smoothly
Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions

• Separate from the executive departments because they perform specialized duties

• Help to carry out federal laws
Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions

• Provide Public Goods and Services such as national defense, highways and the Postal Service
• Enforce Federal Laws
Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions

- Establish guidelines that protect health and safety
- Oversee the way individuals and companies do business
Executive Office of the President

• Established in 1939 and changed by each administration since.
• The “inner circle” of the President (400)
  • Chief of staff
  • Press secretary
  • Physician
  • Counselor / Senior advisors
Executive Office of the President

- National Security Council (NSC)
- Office of Homeland Security
  - Work closely with the President on security issues
  - CIA, military chiefs, etc.
The Federal Bureaucracy

I DON'T LIKE CLINTON'S IDEAS ABOUT CUTTING THE RANKS OF US FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!
I'M GONNA WRITE HIM A NASTY LETTER!

I'LL STUFF IT IN AN ENVELOPE!

I'LL LICK THE STAMP!

NOW, IF WE COULD JUST HIRE EXTRA STAFF TO MAIL IT!

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The Federal Bureaucracy

• Formed by the departments and agencies in the executive branch
• 3 million people work in the bureaucracy
• Operates under heavy rules and regulations that create “red tape”
Iron Triangle

The **iron triangle** comprises the policy-making relationship among the congressional committees, the bureaucracy, and interest groups.
Checks and Balances
Executive Branch **checks** on the Legislative Branch

- Vetoes laws
- Calls Congress into special session
- **Executive Orders**
Executive Branch checks on the Judicial Branch

Appoints federal judges

John Roberts at his nomination for the Supreme Court with President George Bush.
Legislative Branch Checks Powers OVER the President

- Senate approves treaties and presidential appointments
- The House of Representatives appropriates money
- Congress can override veto
- Congress can impeach and convict the President and Vice President

The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. The House of Representatives voted to impeach Presidents Bill Clinton and Andrew Johnson, and President Richard Nixon chose to quit before he could be impeached, but no president has ever been convicted and fired from the presidency.
Judicial Branch Checks Powers over the President

- The Supreme Court can rule Executive Orders unconstitutional
HOW THE PRESIDENT INFLUENCES POLICY MAKING (LAWS/LEGISLATION)
The Executive Branch influences policy making (laws) by:

1. **Proposing legislation** (giving Congress ideas for laws)
2. **Giving the State of the Union Address**
   - Annual speech to Congress that is an important way for a President’s agenda to be communicated to the public and to Congress.
The Executive Branch influences policy making (laws) by:

- Approving or Vetoing bills
The Executive Branch influences policy making (laws) by:

- Appointing officials that carry out the laws
- The President appoints the heads of cabinet departments, independent agencies and regulatory commissions.
- Appealing directly to the people
Welcome to Election Day!

Please choose the next President of the United States.

The Candidates are:

Candidate 1: Associates with ward healers and consults with astrologists. Has two mistresses. He chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate 2: Kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of brandy every evening.

Candidate 3: A decorated war hero, a vegetarian, doesn’t smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn’t had any illicit affairs.
The Actual Person

Candidate 1: Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Candidate 2: Winston Churchill
Candidate 3: Adolf Hitler
On the next slides, decide which role of the President is being demonstrated...
1) President Clinton appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court.

2) Jimmy Carter brings Egypt and Israel together to sign the Camp David Peace Accords in 1979.

3) President Clinton sends Hillary Clinton to represent the United States at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

4) President Kennedy orders America's nuclear forces on high alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.
5) President Carter placed restrictions on the sale of gasoline during the 1979 energy crisis.

6) The president makes his annual state-of-the union address to Congress to outline his agenda for the year.

7) President Clinton may have broken federal law as he raised money for the Democratic National Committee in 1996.