

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- 1) Understand how the executive branch was formed by our Founding Fathers
- 2) Know the attributes of a President
- 3) Name some of the people who support the Executive Branch
- 4) Understand the duties of the President and Vice President
- 5) Be able to describe our system of checks and balances

Suggested Activities

- 1) Start a classroom government. Either have students elect, or randomly assign a student to be classroom President. The class should act as congress and propose new classroom rules, or try to change existing rules. The President will have veto power. To ensure fairness, switch 'President's' every week or two so that all students have the chance to lead the class.
- 2) Dear Mr. President. Ask your students to think of an issue that concerns them about our country or to brainstorm ideas they have to make our country better. Have each student use formal letter writing format to compose a letter to the President. Have students mail their letters to the current president. Alternative activity: Ask students to pretend they live in another time and think of issues that affected people during that time. Write a letter to the president during that time. Of course, students will be unable to mail these letters; you can display them in the classroom instead.

Ten Question Quiz

(5) True/False and (5) Multiple Choice

- 1) Some people feared that a single leader would be too much like a king or queen ___T ___ F
- 2) The President can be elected to two or more 4 year terms ___T ___ F
- 3) The president appoints a cabinet to help him make decisions. ___T ___ F
- 4) The president meets with leaders of other countries ___T ___ F
- 5) Checks and balances ensure that no one branch of government becomes too powerful. ___T ___ F
- 6) To be elected president you must be
 - (a) at least 35 years old
 - (b) must have lived in the United States 14 years
 - (c) born in the United States
 - (d) All of the above
- 7) Which of the following is not a branch of government?
 - (a) the executive branch
 - (b) the legislative branch
 - (c) the presidential branch
 - (d) the judicial branch
- 8) According to the constitution it is the President's chief duty is to
 - (a) take care that the laws be faithfully executed
 - (b) make laws
 - (c) balance the budget
 - (d) veto laws
- 9) To declare war officially, the President must
 - (a) send troops to a country
 - (b) get permission from Congress
 - (c) have a petition signed by the Supreme court
 - (d) conduct a special election
- 10) If the President does something illegal, Congress can _____ a President.
 - (a) Fire
 - (b) acquit
 - (c) impeach
 - (d) None of the above

Answers: 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T, 6D, 7C, 8A, 9B, 10C

Vocabulary

- Acquit** – to declare officially that someone is not guilty of a charge
- Bill** – a written proposal of a new law
- Budget** – a summary of income and spending
- Cabinet** – a group of senior officials, appointed by the President, to advise on policy
- Campaign** – a series of events, including rallies and speeches, intended to persuade voters to vote for a particular politician
- Candidate** – someone who runs for election to a political office
- Constitution** – the documents that outlines the laws of our country
- Convention** – a meeting of the delegates of a political party to select a candidate
- election** – an organized event where someone is voted into political office
- electoral college** – the formal party elected by the voters to elect the President and Vice President
- electors** – a member of the electoral college
- Government** – a group of people given the power to make and enforce the laws of a country
- President** – the leader of the United States
- Treaty** – an agreement between countries
- Veto** – the power of one branch of government to reject the legislation of another

