The Executive Branch

Lesson 1: The President and Vice President

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What is required of leaders?

GUIDING QUESTIONS
1. How does a citizen become president?
2. What happens if the president must step down from office?

Terms to Know
- elector: member of the Electoral College that chooses the president
- outcome: a result or consequence
- resign: to give up one’s office or position
- display: to show or list

What Do You Know?
In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now...</th>
<th>Later...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can any U.S. citizen be president?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can the president be replaced before the end of a term?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office of the President
The President of the United States heads the executive branch of the national government. Because of America’s strong influence around the world, the president may hold the most important job in the world.

The Constitution lists three rules about who can become president. A person must be at least 35 years old and have been born in the United States. He or she must also have lived in the country for at least 14 years.

Most past presidents have been white male Protestant Christians and many were lawyers. In the past 60 years, candidates from a wider group of Americans have had a chance to be elected. In 1960, John F. Kennedy became the first Roman Catholic elected as president. In 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American president. In addition, two women have run for vice president with a major party, Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin. Joseph Lieberman was the first Jewish candidate for vice president.

The election for president is held every four years. The people, however, do not directly choose the president. Instead, a group called the Electoral College elects him or her.
When people vote for a president, they are actually choosing **electors**. Electors are members of the Electoral College who are selected to vote for presidential candidates in elections. The electors meet to vote for the president in December.

Each state has the same number of electors as it has members of Congress. There are 538 electors in the Electoral College today. In most states, the candidate who gets more than half of the people’s votes wins all of that state’s electoral votes. This is called the "winner takes all" rule. This is true even if the candidate wins by only a few votes. So a small number of votes can make a big difference in the **outcome**, or result, of an election.

To win the national election, a person must get at least half of the 538 electoral votes. This means the person must get at least 270 votes. If no one person gets 270 votes, the House of Representatives must decide the election. This has only happened twice, in 1800 and in 1824. If the House votes, each state has only one vote.

The president serves a four-year term. At first, the Constitution did not limit the number of terms a president could serve. George Washington served for two terms. He set an example by refusing to run for a third term. Many years later, Franklin Roosevelt ran for president four times. He won all four elections.

Many people worried that if the number of presidential terms were not limited that one person could become too powerful. So Congress passed the Twenty-second Amendment. It was ratified in 1951. It said that a president could only serve two terms in office.

The president receives pay and other benefits while in office. Those are shown in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President’s Salary and Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid a salary of $400,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receives money for personal costs and travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives and works in the White House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff of more than 80 people takes care of the president’s family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has use of Camp David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has use of special fleet of cars, helicopters, and airplanes <em>Air Force One</em>, for example</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Executive Branch

Lesson 1: The President and Vice President, Continued

Analyzing
7. Why is it important for the nation to know the order of succession in the government?

Explaining
8. When a vice president becomes president, how is the next vice president chosen?

Identifying
9. Study the chart. Which officer becomes president if the vice president, Speaker of the House, and president pro tempore are unable to serve?

The Electoral College also chooses the vice president. The rules for becoming vice president are the same as those for the president.

The Constitution does not give the vice president much power. It says that the vice president will lead the Senate but can only vote to break a tie. It also says that the vice president becomes president if the president dies, is removed from office, falls seriously ill, or resigns.

Presidential Succession

President William Henry Harrison died in 1841. He was the first president to die in office. The Constitution says that the vice president should take on “the powers and duties” of the presidency. But no one was sure what that meant. Should the vice president stay in office as the vice president but do the president’s job? Vice President John Tyler decided that he should declare himself president and take the oath of as acting office. Then he served out the rest of Harrison’s term.

In 1947, Congress passed a law called the Presidential Succession Act. Succession means “to follow.” The law spelled out who would become president and in what order. The vice president is first, followed by the Speaker of the House, and then the president pro tempore of the Senate. If none of these three people can serve, the job falls to the secretary of state. The list provides 18 possible replacements for the president. The chart below displays, or shows, the first ten.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of Succession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 President pro tempore of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Secretary of the Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Secretary of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Attorney General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Secretary of the Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Secretary of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Secretary of Commerce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1967, Congress passed the Twenty-fifth Amendment. This amendment gives the procedures to be followed if it becomes necessary for the vice president to assume the president’s job. It also solved another problem.

In the past, when a vice president became president, the office of vice president was left empty. The Twenty-fifth Amendment states the following:

- If the president dies or leaves office, the vice president becomes the president.
- The new president then chooses a vice president. Congress must approve this choice.
- If the president becomes disabled and cannot do the job, the vice president serves as acting president until the president is able to go back to work. This could happen because of an event such as a heat attack or surgery.

For the vice president to step in as acting president, the vice president and a majority of the cabinet members must agree and report to Congress that the president is unable to do the job.

Check for Understanding

Name two of the qualifications that a person must have to become President of the United States.

1. ______________________________
2. ______________________________

If a president dies and the vice president takes over, name the two things that must happen before a new vice president can take office.

3. ______________________________
4. ______________________________

Mark the Text

10. Circle an example of what might cause the vice president to assume the duties of acting president.

Reading Check

11. What problem with the vice presidency was the Twenty-fifth Amendment meant to solve?

12. Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Write the title Executive Office on the anchor tab. Label the top tab President, the middle tab Vice President, and the bottom tab Presidential Successor. Write the qualifications for each office on the front and reverse tabs.
The Executive Branch

Lesson 2: The President’s Powers and Roles

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What is required of leaders?

GUIDING QUESTIONS
1. What are the duties of the president?
2. What roles does the president have?

Terms to Know
require to order or to have a need for
executive order an order given by the president that has the same force as a law
pardon presidential order that forgives a crime
reprieve presidential order that delays punishment
amnesty pardon for a group of people
ambassador a person who represents the U.S. government in another country

What Do You Know?
In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now...</th>
<th>Later...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the president’s job?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What roles does the president play when fulfilling his or her duties?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defining
1. What is the veto power?
   ______________________
   ______________________

Listing
2. List two powers of the president.
   ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________

Presidential Powers
The role of the president of the United States is a symbol of the federal government and the nation. The president is the most powerful public official in the country. The president’s main job is to execute, or carry out, the laws passed by Congress. The Constitution also gives the president other powers. They are the power to:

- veto, or reject, bills passed by Congress
- call special sessions of Congress
- serve as commander in chief of the armed forces
- receive leaders and other officials of foreign countries
- make treaties with other countries
- appoint judges to the federal court and other top government offices
- pardon or reduce the sentences of people convicted of federal crimes

The legislative branch can check the president’s powers. The Senate must approve treaties and many appointments made by the president.
The Executive Branch

Lesson 2: The President’s Powers and Roles, Continued

The judicial branch can also check the president’s powers. The Supreme Court has ruled that the president is not above the law, which means the president must obey the same laws as everyone else.

The Constitution also requires, or orders, the president to tell Congress how the country is doing. The president does this is by presenting the annual State of the Union message. This is a speech in which the president talks about the important issues facing the country.

Presidential Roles

The president’s main role is to carry out the nation’s laws. When performing this role, the president is called the chief executive. As chief executive, the president is in charge of 15 cabinet departments and many agencies.

Presidents use executive orders to spell out the details of the laws and to put them into use. An executive order is a command that has the same force as a law. Presidents also use executive orders so that they can act quickly in some situations. In 1948, for example, President Harry S. Truman used an executive order to end the separation of races in the nation’s military.

As chief executive, the president appoints, or chooses, justices to serve on the Supreme Court. This power is important because Supreme Court justices serve for life.

Explaining

3. What is the purpose of the State of the Union speech?

Reading Check

4. What are two powers of the president as stated in the Constitution?

Describing

5. Describe the president’s main role and how he or she carries it out.
The Executive Branch

Lesson 2: The President’s Powers and Roles, Continued

Mark the Text

6. Underline the sentence that explains a president’s goal for choosing judges.

Vocabulary

7. What is a pardon?

Contrasting

8. What is the difference between a pardon and amnesty?

Examining Details

9. Why is it difficult for the president and Congress to agree when making new laws?

That is why presidents try to choose judges who share views similar to their own. The president also chooses judges to serve on federal courts throughout the country.

The president also has the power to grant pardons to people found guilty of federal crimes. A pardon forgives a crime and ends punishment. The president can also grant reprieves and amnesty. A reprieve delays punishment. Amnesty is pardon for a group of people.

The president is the country’s chief diplomat. In this role, the president represents the United States government in its dealings with other countries. The president also appoints ambassadors. An ambassador is a person who represents the U.S. government to foreign governments.

Another role of the president is that of the head of state. As head of state, he or she represents the American people. The president greets visiting leaders from other countries. Giving out medals at ceremonies is another job of the head of state.

The president is commander in chief of the armed forces. This allows presidents to back up foreign policy decisions with force when they need to. The president and Congress share the power to make war. Only Congress can declare war. Only the president has the power to order troops into battle. The War Powers Resolution puts limits on the president’s power to send troops into battle. Congress passed the resolution in 1973 after the Vietnam War.

The president tries to help the economy do well. People expect the president to find solutions to problems such as unemployment, high taxes, and rising prices.

The president is a legislative leader. The president often gives Congress ideas for new laws. He or she then works with members of Congress to get those laws passed. The president also makes speeches around the country to get citizens to support the new laws being passed.

Congress and the president do not always agree about which laws should be passed. This is because the president represents the interests of the whole nation. Members of Congress represent the interests of their states or congressional districts. Those interests are not always the same as the national interests.

The president must plan the federal budget each year. He or she meets with budget officials and members of Congress to decide which programs to support and which to cut. These decisions can have a big effect on the economy.
The president is also the party leader of his or her political party. The president supports other party members that are running for office. He or she also helps the party raise money.

### The President’s Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Chief Executive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. carries out the nation’s laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. grants pardons, reprieves, and amnesty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Chief Diplomat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Head of State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D. Commander in Chief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E. Economic Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F. Legislative Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G. Party Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Check for Understanding

**Name three powers given to the president.**

1. ________________
2. ________________
3. ________________

**Name two roles given to the president.**

4. ________________
5. ________________

### Comparing

10. Which of the presidents’ roles do you think is most important? Why?

11. Complete the outline about the roles of the president. Give two details about each job. The first one has been done for you.

### Reading Check

12. Why is the War Powers Resolution important?

13. Place a two-tab Foldable along the line. Write President of the United States on the anchor tab. Label the other tabs Powers and Roles. Write a sentence about each on the reverse tabs.
**The Executive Branch**

**Lesson 3: Making Foreign Policy**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

*What is required of leaders?*  
*Why do nations interact with each other?*

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. What are the goals of foreign policy?  
2. What are the tools the president uses to carry out U.S. foreign policy?

**Terms to Know**

- **foreign policy**  the plan a nation follows when dealing with other nations  
- **target**  a goal or aim  
- **national security**  keeping the nation safe from attack  
- **treaty**  a formal agreement with another nation  
- **executive agreement**  an agreement between the president and the leader of another country  
- **method**  a procedure or process of doing something  
- **trade sanctions**  stopping or slowing trade between the United States and another country  
- **embargo**  an agreement among nations to refuse to trade with a nation

**What Do You Know?**

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study.  
After this lesson, complete the last column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now...</th>
<th>Later...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is foreign policy?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why does the government make foreign policy?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The President and Foreign Policy

**Foreign policy** is the plan a nation follows when it deals with other nations. The United States has four main foreign policy **targets**, or goals. The most important one is **national security**. This means keeping the nation safe from attack. The second goal is to encourage trade with other countries. This is very important in today’s world. Trade builds markets for U.S. goods. It also creates jobs. A third foreign policy goal is to promote world peace. Any war, in any part of the world, can harm trade. It can also put the nation’s security at risk. The fourth goal is to advance democracy around the world. Supporting basic human rights and democratic governments encourages peace.
The Executive Branch

Lesson 3: Making Foreign Policy, Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Big Four: U.S. Foreign Policy Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 national security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 trade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The president directs U.S. foreign policy through the roles of commander in chief and chief diplomat. A large team of experts helps the president. These experts include people in the following executive branch agencies:

- State Department
- Defense Department
- National Security Council
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

These agencies supply the president with information for making decisions. They also help carry out American foreign policy decisions around the world.

Congress also plays a part in foreign policy. Only Congress can declare war. Congress can block some military actions through the War Powers Act. Congress also has the power to decide how much money the country should spend on defense.

Who Plays a Part in U.S. Foreign Policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Security Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Constitution is not clear about how these branches of government should work together or which branch controls the war powers. So at various times in our country’s history, control over the war powers has shifted back and forth between Congress and the president.
The Tools of Foreign Policy

The president and Congress have many tools they can use to conduct foreign policy. One such tool is a treaty. A treaty is a formal agreement between the governments of two or more nations. The president can make a treaty, but the Senate must approve the treaty.

Another tool for making foreign policy is an executive agreement. An executive agreement is an agreement between the president and the leader of another country. It does not require Senate approval.

The United States also sends ambassadors to other countries. They represent the United States government. The president appoints ambassadors, but the appointments must be approved, or confirmed, by the Senate. Ambassadors are sent only to those governments the United States recognizes. The president can refuse to recognize, or accept, the government of another country.

Foreign aid is another useful tool in making foreign policy. Foreign aid is help the United States government gives to other countries. The help these countries receive can be in the form of money, food, military assistance, or supplies. The Marshall Plan is one of the nation’s greatest examples of foreign aid. It was a program that helped Western Europe rebuild after World War II. The United States also sends foreign aid to countries after natural disasters.

The president can use economic methods, or approaches, to conduct foreign policy. One method is to order trade sanctions. Trade sanctions stop or slow trade between the United States and another country. Another choice is for the United States to join an embargo. An embargo is an agreement among a number of nations who refuse to trade with a nation.

Congress also has a role in economic areas. It can set tariffs. Tariffs are taxes placed on goods imported from other countries. This makes the price of these goods the same as or higher than the price of similar U.S. goods. Congress also decides whether the United States should join international trade groups.

As commander in chief, the president has the power to use military force to carry out foreign policy decisions. The president and Congress share the power to make war. Congress has the power to declare war.
The president has the power to order troops to battle. At times, the president has used this power even when Congress has not declared war. The Vietnam War is an example of this type of foreign policy.

9. Glue a one-tab Foldable on top of a two-tab Foldable at the anchor tab to create a book. Place it along the dotted line. Label the one-tab Foldable Foreign Policy. Define the term on the front of the tab. List the U.S. foreign policy goals on the reverse. Now turn to the second Foldable. Label the top tab President: Foreign Policy Tools and the bottom tab Congress: Foreign Policy Tools. On the tabs, write the tools each uses to direct foreign policy.

Check for Understanding
Name two goals of America’s foreign policy.
1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________

List three tools the president uses to carry out America’s foreign policy.
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________
The Executive Branch

Lesson 4: How the Executive Branch Works

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What is required of leaders?

GUIDING QUESTIONS
1. What offices make up the Executive Office of the President?
2. What role does the president’s cabinet play in the government?
3. What is the federal bureaucracy?

Terms to Know
role the job or function of a person or thing
cabinet the heads of the 15 executive departments
federal bureaucracy the agencies below the cabinet departments in the executive branch
specific exact or detailed
executive agency a type of independent agency that deals with specific government programs
government corporation a business operated by the government
regulatory commission a type of independent agency that makes rules that businesses must follow
spoils system system in which workers are given jobs in return for their political support
civil service system system the government uses to hire workers
merit system system in which workers are hired based on their skills and test scores
political appointee a person appointed to a federal job by the president

What Do You Know?
In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now...</th>
<th>Later...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does the Executive Office of the President do?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does the president’s cabinet do?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Executive Office Agencies
In the early days of the nation, only a few people worked in the executive branch. Today thousands of people do. Many of them work in the Executive Office of the President (EOP).

The EOP was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939. The EOP has grown over the years and now has many different offices. The White House Office works directly for the president. It includes the president’s closest advisers, called the White House staff.
The most powerful member of the White House staff is the chief of staff. This person directs the White House staff and handles the president’s schedule.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is another EOP agency. It works closely with the president to prepare the federal budget. It also monitors, or watches, how hundreds of government agencies spend their money.

The National Security Council (NSC) helps the president with defense and security. NSC officials include the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Security Advisor.

Several other offices in the EOP help the president carry out the responsibilities of the executive branch. The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) helps the president in his role, or job, as economic leader. The CEA is responsible for giving the president advice on economic matters, such as jobs, inflation, and trade.

**Selected Executive Offices of the President**

### Reading Check

2. Which officials make up the National Security Council?

### Making Inferences

3. Why do you think the Secretary of State is a member of the National Security Council?

### Identifying

4. Choose three of the offices in the chart. Circle each one and write a brief description of what it does.
The President’s Cabinet

The executive branch also includes 15 executive departments. The president chooses the heads of these departments with the Senate’s consent. This group of advisors is called the **cabinet**. The president decides when it is necessary for the cabinet to meet.

The head of the Department of Justice is called the attorney general. The other cabinet members are called secretaries. Each secretary advises the president and manages the work of his or her department. For example, the secretary of the interior manages and protects the nation’s national parks.

The Department of Homeland Security is the newest cabinet department. It was created in 2002. It is responsible for keeping the nation safe from terrorist attacks.

The Constitution does not mention the cabinet. The cabinet developed when George Washington started meeting regularly with the heads of the first four executive departments in the new government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Cabinet Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Homeland Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may wonder how the vice president fits into the executive branch. Some vice presidents have not had much authority. Others have played key roles. This has become especially true in recent years. Some active vice presidents include Al Gore, Dick Cheney, and Joe Biden.
The Executive Branch
Lesson 4: How the Executive Branch Works, Continued

The Federal Bureaucracy
The executive branch has hundreds of agencies below the cabinet departments. Together, these agencies are called the federal bureaucracy (byu•RAH•kruh•see). The agencies of the federal bureaucracy have three main jobs. As they do these jobs, they help shape government policy.

First, the agencies must make new laws work. Congress passes laws, but it does not say how to make them work in the real world. This is the job of the executive agencies. They write specific rules so that businesses and people can follow the law.

Second, the agencies carry out the government’s daily work. The federal workers deliver the mail, collect taxes, take care of the national parks, and do thousands of other jobs.

Third, the agencies regulate various kinds of businesses, services, and public utilities. These include banking, the airlines, nuclear power plants, and many others. For example, the Food and Drug Administration makes sure that food and medicine are safe for consumers.

The executive branch includes hundreds of independent agencies. These agencies are independent because they are not part of the cabinet. There are three types:

1. Executive agencies work with special government programs. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent executive agency.

2. Government corporations are businesses that are owned and run by the government. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is an example of a government corporation.

3. Regulatory commissions make rules that businesses must follow. For example, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets rules for broadcasters. Regulatory commissions are the only independent agencies that do not have to report to the president. The president appoints their members but only Congress can remove them.

Visualizing
8. What do you think the secretary of commerce would advise the president about?

Vocabulary
9. What is the federal bureaucracy?

Explaining
10. What do federal agencies do?

Listing
11. List the three types of independent agencies in the executive branch.

Mark the Text
12. Underline the sentence that explains what makes the regulatory commissions different than the other independent agencies.
The Executive Branch

Lesson 4: How the Executive Branch Works, Continued

The executive branch has many workers. Early in our nation’s history the government used the spoils system to hire workers. Under the spoils system, each new president filled jobs only with his with supporters.

In 1883, Congress passed the Civil Service Reform Act. This act changed the way the government hired workers. The new system is called the civil service system. It is a merit system. Merit means “ability.” In this system people have to take tests and are hired based on their skills. The people who are hired become civil service workers. About 90 percent of government workers are civil service workers. Civil service workers usually have permanent jobs.

Today only the top government jobs are awarded to political appointees. Political appointees are people chosen by the president. People in these jobs usually leave office when the president does.

Vocabulary

13. Explain what the **merit system** is in your own words.

14. Which jobs go to political appointees today?

Check for Understanding

Name two government agencies that are part of the Executive Office of the President.

1. __________________________

2. __________________________

Name two ways that the work of the president’s cabinet affects how the government runs.

3. __________________________

4. __________________________

Reading Check

14. Which jobs go to political appointees today?

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FOLDABLES

15. Place a two-tab Foldable along the line. Label anchor tab **Executive Offices**. Label the tabs **Executive Office of the President** and **Cabinet**. Write the definition of each on the tabs. On the reverse tabs make a list of the purposes of each.