The Framers did not state specifically in the Constitution what the role of the president should be. The nation’s first president, George Washington, established many traditions that shaped the presidency. Every president since Washington has followed and built upon these traditions, refining the president’s role within the government.

Delegates to the 2008 National Republican Convention prepare to nominate their candidate for president.
Section 1: The President and Vice President

The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law. The president holds one of the most powerful and important elective offices in the world.

Section 2: The President’s Job

The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law. The president fills many different roles.

Section 3: Making Foreign Policy

Under our federal system, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches share the responsibility of governing the nation. The president and Congress have important roles in making foreign policy.

Section 4: Presidential Advisers and Executive Agencies

The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law. Thousands of employees and advisers help the president.

Foldables™ Study Organizer

Organizing Information Study Foldable  Make the following Foldable to help you organize information about the U.S. president and the executive branch of government.

Step 1  Fold a sheet of paper in half from top to bottom with edges evenly together.

Step 2  Then fold the paper in half from side to side.

Step 3  Label the Foldable as shown.

Reading and Writing

As you read the chapter, record the different roles the president plays in government as he or she fulfills the requirements of this office.
CHAPTER 7

Daily Focus Transparency 7-1

• Must be at least 35 years old
• Must be a native-born American citizen
• Must be a resident of the United States for at least 14 years
• Serves four-year terms
• Is limited to two elected terms or a maximum of ten years if the presidency began during another president’s term
• Receives a salary of $400,000 per year, plus money for expenses and travel
• Lives and works in the White House and can use Camp David
• Has a domestic staff of more than 80 people
• Commands a fleet of special cars, helicopters, and airplanes

The Twenty-second Amendment explains that if a person has served as president for more than two years of another president’s term, that person may not be elected president more than once. Discuss why the United States limits the number of terms that a person may serve as president.

Real World Civics

Any child born in the United States can grow up to be president. It is considered to be the most powerful job in the world. Would you want it? Barack Obama did. After serving in the U.S. Senate representing Illinois, he decided to run for the presidency in 2008. After becoming the nominee of his party, he chose Senator Joseph Biden as his running mate. Together they campaigned in a history-making election. Barack Obama succeeded at becoming the first African American elected to the U.S. presidency.

Barack Obama (right) and Joe Biden claim the nominations for president and vice president at the 2008 Democratic convention.
The Office of the President

Main idea As the head of the executive branch of our federal government, the president holds one of the most powerful and important elective offices in the world.

Civics & You What qualifications do you think a president should have? Read this section to find out what Americans have come to expect from their presidents.

The president heads the executive branch of the United States government. The presidency is the top political job in the country. Because of the power and global influence of the United States, the president is generally considered to hold the most important job in the world. Our country’s first president was George Washington. Just as the nation has grown tremendously since that time, so has the office of the presidency.

The U.S. Constitution lists only three rules about who, by law, can become president of the United States. A person must be (1) at least 35 years old, (2) a native-born American citizen, and (3) a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.

Characteristics of Presidents Almost all our presidents have shared similar characteristics. So far, every American president has been male. All but one have been Protestant Christians. Most have had a college education. Many have been lawyers. Most came from states with large populations.

Only in the past few decades has the presidency become a possibility for a wider group of Americans. John F. Kennedy became the first Catholic president in 1960. In 1984 the Democratic Party nominated Geraldine Ferraro as its first female vice-presidential candidate. In 2000 the Democrats nominated Connecticut senator Joseph Lieberman as the first Jewish candidate for vice president. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected in 2008.

President for Life Former presidents are often called upon to attend official ceremonies as former presidents Carter, Bush, Clinton, and Ford do here. Identifying What would happen if a person who came to this country as an immigrant wanted to run for president?
Presidential Elections

Presidential elections take place every four years in years evenly divisible by the number four—for example, 2000, 2004, and 2008. The Constitution provides for an indirect method of election called the Electoral College. The Constitution says that each state “shall appoint” electors, who then vote for one of the major candidates. Although the ballot will display, or show, the names of the presidential candidates, you are actually voting for a list of presidential electors pledged to that candidate.

Each state has as many electoral votes as the total of its U.S. senators and representatives. (Washington, D.C., has three electoral votes.) The Electoral College includes 538 electors. In almost every state, the Electoral College is a “winner-take-all” system. Even if a candidate wins the popular vote by just a tiny majority, that candidate usually gets all of the state’s electoral votes. Thus, the electoral votes of a few small states can decide the outcome, or result, of a close election.

To be elected, a candidate must receive half of the 538 electoral votes available, or 270 votes to win. If no candidate gets an electoral college majority, the House of Representatives votes on the candidates, with each state delegation casting only a single vote. This has happened twice—in 1800 and in 1824.

Although the winning presidential candidate is usually announced on the same evening as the popular election, the formal election by the Electoral College does not take place until December. The electors meet in each state capital to cast their ballots. Then Congress officially counts the electoral votes.

Election 2008 Electoral Results

1. Comparing What general area of the country voted solidly Republican?

2. Identifying Which three Democratic states had the highest electoral vote counts?
Fourteen vice presidents have become president. Five former vice presidents were elected president. Four vice presidents succeeded to the presidency upon the assassination of the incumbent: Andrew Johnson for Abraham Lincoln in 1865, Chester Arthur for James Garfield in 1881, Theodore Roosevelt for William McKinley in 1901, and Lyndon Johnson for John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Four vice presidents inherited the presidency after the natural death of the incumbent: John Tyler for William Henry Harrison in 1841, Millard Fillmore for Zachary Taylor in 1850, Calvin Coolidge for Warren Harding in 1923, and Harry S. Truman for Franklin Roosevelt in 1945.

Ratified in 1967, the Twenty-fifth Amendment established the order of succession to the presidency and spelled out what happens when the vice presidency becomes vacant. In 1974, Gerald Ford became the first president to take office under its provisions. Ford succeeded to the presidency after Richard Nixon resigned during the Watergate scandal.

Analyzing Charts

1. Evaluating Why is a line of succession for the presidency important?
2. Explaining Why did Andrew Johnson succeed President Lincoln?
Term of Office

Presidents serve four-year terms. Originally the Constitution placed no limits on how many terms a president could serve. The nation’s first president, George Washington, served for eight years and then refused to run for a third term. Following Washington’s example, no president served more than two terms until 1940, when Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for and won a third term. In 1944 Roosevelt won a fourth term. The Twenty-second Amendment, ratified in 1951, limits each president to two elected terms in office, or a maximum of 10 years if the presidency began during another president’s term.

Salary and Benefits

The president receives a salary of $400,000 per year, plus money for expenses and travel. The president lives and works in the White House. A domestic staff of more than 80 people takes care of the president’s family.

The president has use of Camp David, an estate in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, about 60 miles north of Washington, D.C. When presidents travel, they command a fleet of special cars, helicopters, and airplanes. For long trips, the president uses Air Force One, a specially equipped jet.

The Vice President

The vice president is elected with the president through the Electoral College system. The qualifications for the office are the same as those for the presidency. The Constitution gives little authority to the vice president. Article I states that the vice president shall preside over the Senate and vote in that body in case of a tie. If the president dies, is removed from office, falls seriously ill, or resigns, the vice president becomes president.

Executive Travel President Bush walks from the White House to Marine One to fly to a fund-raiser within an hour. Speculating How might this be different than an early president’s travel?

Presidential Succession

Main Idea The office of the president has an established order of succession.

Civics & You Do you know what happens when a president dies or is forced to leave office? Read to find out how the Constitution answers this question.

In 1841 William Henry Harrison became the first president to die in office. His death raised many questions. While the Constitution says that the vice president should assume the “powers and duties” of the presidency, no one was sure what that meant. Should the vice president remain as vice president while doing the president’s job? Should the vice president become president? Should a special election be called to elect a new president?

Vice President John Tyler settled these questions. He declared himself president, took the oath of office, and served out the remainder of Harrison’s term. Since Tyler’s time, eight other vice presidents have taken over the presidency following the death or resignation of a president.

Identifying What is the maximum number of years that a U.S. president can serve?
Presidential Succession Act

In 1947 Congress passed the Presidential Succession Act, which indicates the line of succession after the vice president. According to this law, if both the president and vice president die or leave office, the Speaker of the House becomes president. Next in line is the president pro tempore of the Senate, then the secretary of state and other members of the cabinet.

Twenty-fifth Amendment

Remaining questions about presidential succession were answered by the passage of a constitutional amendment. The Twenty-fifth Amendment, ratified in 1967, says that if the president dies or leaves office, the vice president becomes president. The new president then chooses another vice president. Both the Senate and House of Representatives must approve the choice. This amendment also gives the vice president a role in determining whether a president is disabled and unable to do the job. Should that occur, the vice president would serve as acting president until the president is able to go back to work.

The Twenty-fifth Amendment has been used only three times. In 1973 Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned. President Richard Nixon replaced him with Gerald Ford, a representative from Michigan, and Congress approved the nomination. When Nixon resigned from the presidency in 1974, Ford became the new president. Ford then nominated Nelson A. Rockefeller, former governor of New York, to be his vice president. In 1985 President Ronald Reagan informed Congress that he would need to undergo surgery and would be unable to carry out his presidential duties. As a result, Vice President George H.W. Bush served as acting president for about eight hours.

Describing What was the purpose of the Twenty-fifth Amendment?

Vocabulary

1. Write complete sentences about the United States presidency using each of the following terms: Electoral College, elector.

Main Ideas

2. Analyzing Why do you think the president is elected rather than appointed by Congress?

3. Identifying Who are the first four officers in the line of succession to the presidency? Who is last in line?

Critical Thinking

4. Analyzing Candidates for president are not usually drawn to the office because of the salary. Why do you think these people run for office?

5. In a graphic organizer like the one below, identify the main qualifications for running for the office of president of the United States.

6. Expository Writing What qualifications or characteristics do you think a president should have? Which of the recent presidents, if any, have had these qualifications or characteristics? Write a one-page essay in which you answer these questions.

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.
Guide to Reading

Big Idea
The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law.

Content Vocabulary
• executive order (p. 216)
• pardon (p. 217)
• reprieve (p. 217)
• amnesty (p. 217)

Academic Vocabulary
• require (p. 215)
• impact (p. 216)
• policy (p. 217)

Reading Strategy
Summarizing As you read, in a chart like the one below, list the different duties that are part of the president’s role as chief executive.

Real World Civics The president is the commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces. He or she is also one of the most important hosts of one of the most impressive houses in the world—the White House. The president must maintain good relationships with other world leaders and often entertains dignitaries. Here President Bill Clinton hosts Spain’s King Juan Carlos in 2000, engaging in a ceremonial troop review of U.S. Marines. The south lawn of the White House is a popular location for such honorary troop reviews and other greetings of foreign leaders.

Former president Clinton honors the king of Spain
Constitutional Powers

Main Idea  The source for the president’s authority is Article II of the Constitution.

Civics & You  What qualifications or characteristics do you think a president should have? Which of the recent presidents, if any, have had these qualifications or characteristics?

Fewer than 50 men have been able to say what it feels like to be president of the United States. Some former presidents’ thoughts are revealing.

“The presidency has made every man who occupied it, no matter how small, bigger than he was; and no matter how big, not big enough for its demands.”

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Duties of the President

Although the president is the head of just one of the three branches of government, he or she, with the exception of the vice president, is the only official of the federal government elected by the entire nation. As a result, the president stands as a symbol not only of the federal government, but of the entire nation as well. Even so, the thirty-eighth president, Gerald Ford, pointed out that not even the president can do the impossible.

“You know, the President of the United States is not a magician who can wave a wand or sign a paper that will instantly end a war, cure a recession, or make bureaucracy disappear.”

—Gerald Ford

The president is the most powerful public official in the United States. The U.S. Constitution is the basis of the president’s power. Article II says,

“Executive Power shall be invested in a President. . . .”

Thus, the president’s main job is to execute, or carry out, the laws passed by Congress. The Constitution also gives the president the power to

• veto, or reject, bills passed in Congress.
• call Congress into special session.
• serve as commander in chief of the armed forces.
• receive leaders and other officials of foreign countries.
• make treaties with other countries (with Senate approval).
• appoint heads of executive agencies, federal court judges, ambassadors, and other top government officials (also subject to Senate approval).
• pardon or reduce the penalties against people convicted of federal crimes.

Because the Constitution requires, or calls for, the president to give Congress information about the “state of the union,” the president gives several speeches to Congress each year. The most important is the State of the Union address, in which the president discusses the most important issues facing the nation.

The constitutional duties of the nation’s first president, George Washington, and those of a modern president are much the same. For example, the Constitution makes the president the commander in chief of the nation’s armed forces. In Washington’s administration this meant calling out a militia of 15,000 volunteers. Today the president oversees a military divided into five major units and makes the decision on how to deploy troops stationed around the world.

Analyzing  What are the powers of the president as expressed in the Constitution?
Roles of the President

Main Idea The president fills many roles that are important to the functioning of the United States government.

Civics and You The Constitution grants broad powers to the president. Do you think the president has too much power? Read about the president’s many roles.

The Constitution holds one person—the president—responsible for carrying out the duties of the executive branch. As the nation has grown, the duties and responsibilities of the executive branch have grown.

Chief Executive

The most important job of the president is to carry out the nation’s laws. To do this, the president is in charge of 15 cabinet departments and the approximately 3 million civilians who work for the federal government. The president appoints the heads of the cabinet departments and of other large government agencies, with the Senate’s approval.

Use of Executive Orders Presidents have several tools to influence how laws are carried out. One is the executive order. An executive order is a rule or command that has the force of law. Only Congress has the authority to make laws. Issuing executive orders, however, is generally considered to fall under the president’s constitutional duty to “take care that the laws are faithfully executed.”

Many executive orders deal with simple administrative problems. Some, however, have had a great impact, or influence. President Harry S. Truman, for instance, used an executive order in 1948 to racially integrate the armed forces. This gave Americans of all races the opportunity to serve in the armed forces.

Shauna Fleming

What is it like to meet the president of the United States? Just ask Shauna Fleming, 17, of Orange, California. She received the President’s Volunteer Service Award for her work as founder of “A Million Thanks.”

QUESTION: What does A Million Thanks do?

ANSWER: Our goal is to collect thank-you letters for the U.S. military. I started the campaign in 2004 and have collected 2 million letters so far.

Q: Why did you start it?

A: I saw a need for a morale boost for our troops. We’ve sent millions of letters and e-mails to U.S. military men and women stationed all over the world. If you put all the paper together, it would weigh 8,000 pounds and fill two large semi trucks. Our Web site has had over 4 million hits and thousands of great responses from soldiers who received letters.

Q: Because of your work, you were invited to the White House. What was that like?

A: I’ve met some of the most powerful people in the world. But the highlight has to be meeting President George W. Bush in a private meeting with my family in the Oval Office. I presented the president with the one millionth thank-you letter received by my campaign. I discussed many things with him and he even gave us a tour of the office, pointing out objects that were important to him.

What qualities does Shauna display that makes her volunteer work successful?
Power of Appointment  The Constitution gives the president the power to appoint judges to the Supreme Court and other federal courts. This is an important power because the Supreme Court has the final authority to determine whether a law is constitutional. Because the power to interpret laws is important, most presidents try to appoint Supreme Court justices who share views similar to their own.

The Constitution also gives the president the power to grant pardons. A pardon is a declaration of forgiveness and freedom from punishment. The president may also issue a reprieve, an order to delay a person’s punishment until a higher court can hear the case, or grant amnesty, a pardon toward a group of people.

Chief Diplomat

The president directs the foreign policy, or strategy, of the United States, making key decisions about how the United States acts toward other countries in the world.

Commander in Chief

The Constitution makes the president commander in chief of the armed forces of the United States. This role gives presidents the ability to back up their foreign policy decisions with force, if necessary. The president is in charge of the army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard. The top commanders of all these branches of service are subordinate to the president.

The president shares with Congress the power to make war. The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, but only the president can order American soldiers into battle. Congress has declared war five times: the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. Presidents, however, have sent troops into action overseas more than 150 times since 1789. For example, although Congress never declared war in Korea or in Vietnam, American troops were involved in conflicts in those countries because they were sent there by U.S. presidents.

In 1973, after the Vietnam War, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution. According to this law, the president must notify Congress within 48 hours when troops are sent into battle. These troops must be brought home after 60 days unless Congress gives its approval for them to remain longer or declares war.

Legislative Leader

Only members of Congress have the power to introduce bills for consideration, but in practice Congress expects the executive branch to propose the legislation it would like to see enacted.

Every president has a legislative program. These are new laws that the president wants Congress to pass. The president makes speeches to build support for this program and meets with key senators and representatives to try to persuade them to support the proposed laws.

European Union  President Bush and advisers meet with leaders in Europe to discuss trade. **Identifying** What official role of the president is this an example of?
The president and Congress have often disagreed over what new laws Congress should adopt. One reason for this is that presidents represent the entire United States, while members of Congress represent only the people of their states or districts.

The difference in the lengths of time that presidents and members of Congress can hold office also contributes to this conflict. While presidents can serve no more than two elected terms, members of Congress can be elected over and over again for decades. Therefore, many members of Congress may not want to move as quickly on programs as the president does.

**Head of State**

The president is the living symbol of the nation. In this role, the president aids diplomacy by greeting visiting kings and queens, prime ministers, and other foreign leaders. The president also carries out ceremonial functions for Americans, such as lighting the national Christmas tree and giving medals to the country’s heroes.

**Economic Leader**

Every president tries to help the country’s economy prosper. Voters expect the president to deal with such problems as unemployment, rising prices, and high taxes. One key task the president must accomplish each year as economic leader is to plan the federal government’s budget. The president meets with budget officials to decide what programs to support and what programs to cut back. Budget decisions have a great effect on the national economy.

**Party Leader**

The president is generally regarded as the leader of his or her political party. Members of the president’s party work hard to elect the president. In turn, the president gives speeches to help fellow party members who are running for office as members of Congress, governors, and mayors. The president also helps the party raise money.

**Vocabulary**

1. **Define** the following terms and use them in complete sentences related to the presidency: executive order, pardon, reprieve, amnesty.

**Main Ideas**

2. **Identifying** According to the Constitution, what is the president’s duty to Congress?

3. **Describing** As commander in chief, what responsibilities does the president have? Which is most important?

4. **Drawing Conclusions** Which of the roles of the president do you think is the most important? Least important? Why?

5. **Critical Thinking** In a web diagram like the one below, classify the roles filled by the president as leader of his or her party.

6. **Creative Writing** Imagine a typical day in the life of a United States president. Prepare an agenda for the president’s day. Be sure to keep the duties of the president in mind when creating the agenda.

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Guide to Reading

Big Idea
Under our federal system, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches share the responsibility of governing the nation.

Content Vocabulary
- foreign policy (p. 220)
- national security (p. 220)
- treaty (p. 222)
- executive agreement (p. 222)
- ambassador (p. 222)
- trade sanction (p. 223)
- embargo (p. 223)

Academic Vocabulary
- method (p. 222)
- target (p. 223)

Reading Strategy
Comparing and Contrasting  As you read, complete a graphic organizer like the one below showing the president’s four goals in foreign policy.

Real World Civics  The president’s long arm of foreign policy stretches around the world in the form of U.S. ambassadors. The president cannot be everywhere spreading good will. So he or she appoints ambassadors to major countries to maintain diplomatic relationships with other governments. Great Britain has been one of the United States’s closest allies. Here, Prince Charles, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador William S. Farish, signs a book of condolences following the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon in 2001. Ambassadorships are often awarded to people for their hard work and support of the president.

Prince Charles of Wales signs Remembrance Book with U.S. Ambassador Farish in London.
The President and Foreign Policy

Main Idea  As commander in chief and chief diplomat, the president leads the nation’s armed forces and directs U.S. foreign policy.

Civics & You  Just as the president very often has to deal with people outside our country, you have to deal with people outside your family. Think about times when that has been a challenge for you. What did you do?

A nation’s plan for dealing with other nations is called its foreign policy. The president directs the foreign policy of the United States, making the key decisions about the relations the United States has with other countries in the world. The primary goal of American foreign policy is national security, the ability to keep the country safe from attack or harm. This goal is vital. No government can effectively meet other important goals, such as better health care or cleaning up the environment, if the nation is under attack.

Another important goal is international trade. In today’s economy, trade with other nations is vital to economic prosperity. Trade creates markets for American products and jobs for American workers.

A third goal is promoting world peace. Even a war far from the United States can disrupt trade and put national security at risk. When other nations are at peace, the United States runs no risk of being drawn into a foreign war.

A fourth goal of foreign policy is to promote democracy around the world. Promoting democracy and basic human rights in other countries encourages peace and thus helps protect our own national security.
Condeleezza Rice juggle numbers of missiles and tanks as confidently as any general. An expert on Russia and arms control, Rice launched her foreign policy career while only a teenager.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Rice lived through the early years of the civil rights movement. While Rice was in junior high school, her father took a job in Denver, Colorado. There she skipped two grades and entered college at age 15. Rice had many interests and was not sure about a future career. As Rice shopped for a major, she sat in on a lecture about the former Soviet Union.

All the governmental maneuvers by the Communists fascinated her. Rice was hooked. A talented piano player, Rice once joked, “I was saved from [becoming] a music major by Russia.”

Rice went on to earn a Ph.D. and by her late 20s was teaching political science at Stanford University in California. In 2001 President Bush appointed Rice as the first woman to head the National Security Council. In 2005 he appointed her to serve as Secretary of State. Rice became the first African American woman to hold that position. At her confirmation hearing, Rice stated “we must use American diplomacy to help create a balance of power in the world that favors freedom. And the time for diplomacy is now.”

“I make American foreign policy,” President Harry S. Truman declared in 1948. The president is indeed a very important foreign policy decision maker. Americans and others throughout the world look to the president to represent our country in foreign affairs.

**Foreign-Policy Bureaucracy** The president, along with White House assistants, works with a large foreign-policy bureaucracy in the executive branch. This bureaucracy includes the State Department, the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Council. These agencies assist the president in foreign affairs. They can carry out presidential decisions around the world and give the president valuable information. At the same time, presidents must make the final decision. President Harry S. Truman noted,

“No one who has not had the responsibility can really understand what it is like to be President, not even his closest aides. . . . [H]e is never allowed to forget that he is President.”

—Harry S. Truman

**Congress v. the President** The president is chief diplomat and commander in chief, but Congress has the power to declare war, to prohibit certain military actions, and to spend—or withhold—money for defense. The Constitution does not clearly spell out how the legislative and the executive branches can use their powers. As a result, there has always been competition between Congress and the president over who controls foreign policy.
In this struggle, one branch or the other has controlled foreign policy at various times. After World War II, Congress lost much of its control over foreign policy to the president. Then, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam conflict, Congress regained some of its war powers. In starting the American war on global terrorism in 2001, President George W. Bush tipped the balance back toward the presidency.

**Tools of Foreign Policy**

The president and Congress have several approaches they can use to carry out American foreign policy. These methods, or procedures, include creating treaties; appointing ambassadors; and directing foreign aid, international trade, and military forces.

**Treaties and Executive Agreements**

Formal agreements between the governments of two or more countries are called treaties. Some treaties are based on defense. One of the most important is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a mutual defense treaty between the United States, Canada, and the nations of Europe.

The Senate must approve a treaty by a two-thirds vote. However, the president can bypass the Senate by making an executive agreement. This is an agreement between the president and the leader of another country. Most agreements deal with fairly routine matters.

**Appointing Ambassadors**

An official representative of a country’s government is an ambassador. The president appoints about 150 ambassadors, who must be confirmed by the Senate. Ambassadors are sent only to those countries where the United States recognizes, or accepts, the legal existence of the government. If the government of a certain country is thought to hold power illegally,
the president can refuse to recognize that government.

**Foreign Aid** Foreign aid is money, food, military assistance, or other supplies given to help other countries. One of this nation’s greatest examples of foreign aid was the Marshall Plan, a program created to help restore Western Europe after World War II.

**International Trade** As the leader of a great economic power, the president can make agreements with other nations about what products may be traded and the rules for such trading. Sometimes trade measures include **trade sanctions**, or efforts to punish another nation by imposing trade barriers. Another punishing tool is the **embargo**, which is an agreement among a group of nations that prohibits them from trading with a **target** nation. Congress takes the lead in other areas, such as tariffs—taxes on imported goods—and membership in international trade groups, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Military Force** As commander in chief of the armed forces, presidents may use the military to carry out some foreign-policy decisions. Numerous times in the history of the United States, presidents have sent troops to troublesome spots on the globe, even though Congress had not declared war. This is a powerful tool of foreign policy, but one that must be used with great care. President George Washington summoned troops to put down the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794. President Bill Clinton ordered cruise missiles to be launched at terrorist facilities in Afghanistan and Sudan in 1998. In 2003 President George W. Bush ordered the American armed forces to invade Iraq and remove the nation’s dictator Saddam Hussein.

### Vocabulary

1. **Define** the following terms and use them in sentences related to U.S. foreign policy: foreign policy, national security, treaty, executive agreement, ambassador, trade sanction, embargo.

### Main Ideas

2. **Describing** In what way is the president the country’s chief diplomat? What duties does this include?

3. **Defining** Why are trade sanctions and embargoes considered tools of foreign policy?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing** Should Congress or the president have more power in conducting foreign affairs? Explain your answer.

5. **Compare and contrast** the responsibilities and roles of the president and Congress on a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Policy</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Activity

6. **Expository Writing** Interview several adults, all of whom have different jobs, about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Find out why they think it is good or bad foreign policy. Share your results in an essay.

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**Concluding** What foreign policy tools does the president have to deal with international terrorism?


President Advisers and Executive Agencies

Real World Civics  What is the proper role of the First Lady? At one time, the spouse of the president served as a ceremonial hostess at White House events. 

Eleanor Roosevelt changed all that when she became active in political causes during her husband’s presidencies in the 1940s. Jacqueline Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalynn Carter and Barbara Bush continued to revolutionize the role of the First Lady. Here President George H.W. Bush celebrates Thanksgiving with the U.S. Marines in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War in 1990. Now, First Ladies are seen as advisers to their husbands, as well as having their own agendas as public figures.

Former president George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush visit U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia

Guide to Reading

Big Idea
The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law.

Content Vocabulary
- cabinet (p. 226)
- federal bureaucracy (p. 228)
- independent agency (p. 229)
- government corporation (p. 229)
- political appointee (p. 229)
- civil service worker (p. 229)
- civil service system (p. 229)
- spoils system (p. 230)
- merit system (p. 230)

Academic Vocabulary
- monitor (p. 225)
- role (p. 225)

Reading Strategy
Categorizing  As you read, complete a chart similar to the one below to categorize information about the president’s cabinet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President’s Cabinet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Depts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. Head’s Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newest Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabinet Meets When</td>
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Organization of the Federal Branch

Main Idea The executive branch is made up of the top advisers and assistants who help the president carry out major duties.

Civics & You The executive branch has grown tremendously over the years. What advantages and disadvantages can you see in having a large executive staff?

The executive branch is organized like a pyramid. The president, as chief executive, is at the very top of the pyramid. Directly below the president are a number of powerful officials, usually handpicked by the president. Below these are many levels of lesser officials and managers. In general, the people at the top of the pyramid are the ones who set goals and make important decisions.

In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson did his job with the help of a few advisers, a messenger, and a part-time secretary. Today thousands of highly trained specialists, secretaries, and clerks assist the president. Most of these people work in the Executive Office of the President (EOP). These people are often referred to as a president’s administration.

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration created the EOP in 1939 to help the president do his job. The office has been growing ever since. Currently it has about 2,000 employees and a budget of more than $100 million.

The Executive Office

The core of the Executive Office of the President is the White House Office, which is comprised of about 500 people who work directly for the president. Among them are 10 to 12 people who serve as the president’s closest political advisers. The most powerful among this group is the chief of staff. Other top advisers are the deputy chief of staff and the press secretary. (The press secretary provides the public with news about and statements from the president.) As a group, such advisers make up the White House staff.

Management and Budget

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) prepares the federal budget and monitors, or oversees, spending in hundreds of government agencies. The director of the OMB works closely with the president. The federal budget is the clearest statement of the administration’s plans and goals for the coming year.

National Security Council (NSC)

The National Security Council (NSC) helps the president direct United States military and foreign policy. It handles matters affecting the security of the country. It includes the vice president, the secretaries of state and defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which includes the top commander from each of the armed services. The National Security Advisor heads the NSC. The NSC also supervises the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which gathers information about the governments of other countries.

Other Offices

The Office of Administration provides administrative services to the executive offices of the president. The Office also responds to individuals who are seeking records under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) helps the president carry out the role, or position, of economic leader. The president names the CEA’s members, and the Senate approves them. The CEA’s primary duty involves giving the president advice about complex economic matters such as employment, inflation, and foreign trade.

Identifying What are the duties of a president’s press secretary?
The Cabinet

Main Idea The cabinet is an advisory group chosen by the president to help accomplish the work of the executive branch.

Civics & You Some presidents have followed their cabinets' opinion on many matters. Other presidents have not. Do you think strong presidents rely more or less on their cabinets' advice?

The EOP is only a small part of the president’s administration. Many more people work in the cabinet. The cabinet is a group of presidential advisers that includes the heads of the 15 top-level executive departments. The head of the Department of Justice is called the attorney general; all the other department heads are called secretaries. The president may also ask the vice president and other top officials to join the cabinet.

Department of Homeland Security

On November 25, 2002, President Bush signed the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The act created the Department of Homeland Security to improve the nation’s defenses against terrorism and coordinate counterterrorism intelligence. It is the first new department established since the Department of Veterans Affairs was created in 1989.

Cabinet Responsibilities

As cabinet members, the secretaries advise the president on issues related to their departments. The secretary of agriculture, for instance, might keep the president and White House Office informed on the progress of farm policies and the need for increased funding.

Selected Executive Offices of the President

White House Office
Office of Management and Budget
National Security Council
Office of Administration
Council of Economic Advisers
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Homeland Security Council
USA Freedom Corps
Council on Environmental Quality
Domestic Policy Council
National Economic Council
White House Military Office
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
Office of National AIDS Policy
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Office of Science and Technology Policy
President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

Analyzing Charts

1. **Identifying** Which department advises the president on international trade?
2. **Identifying** Which department helps the president coordinate military and foreign policy?
House staff informed about matters of concern to American farmers. Cabinet secretaries often make important policy decisions.

No mention of the cabinet appears in the Constitution. Instead, this body developed when George Washington began to meet regularly with the heads of the first four executive departments. These were the attorney general and the secretaries of state, war, and the treasury.

The cabinet meets whenever the president determines that it is necessary. This may be as often as once a week or hardly at all. Many presidents have not relied heavily on their cabinets and have felt free to ignore cabinet advice. As heads of executive agencies, these department secretaries must spend most of their time coordinating those departments’ activities. Department heads of the cabinet must be approved by the Senate.
Vice President and First Lady

Most presidents have delegated little authority to their vice presidents. Recently, however, some have tried to give their vice presidents more responsibility. Vice President Al Gore, for example, served as a close adviser to President Bill Clinton on environmental issues, and Vice President Dick Cheney advised President George W. Bush closely on foreign policy issues.

The Constitution does not mention the spouse of a president. First Ladies, though, have served the country in many ways. Eleanor Roosevelt worked tirelessly for the young and the disadvantaged. Nancy Reagan spoke out for drug abuse prevention, Hillary Clinton worked to improve health care for all Americans, and Laura Bush promoted education and reading. Today First Ladies have an office in the White House.

The Federal Bureaucracy

Main Idea The federal bureaucracy has grown over the years and assumes an important role in making public policy.

Civics & You With every new administration, new people are named to hold positions within the federal bureaucracy. Why might it be a problem for new people to always be taking these jobs?

Below the cabinet departments are hundreds of agencies that deal with everything from setting standards for the hot dogs you eat to running the space shuttle program. About 3 million civilians work in these many departments and agencies. Taken together, the agencies and employees of the executive branch are often called the federal bureaucracy. The people who work for these organizations are called bureaucrats, or civil servants.

Federal Staffing President Bush watches as Trade Representative Susan Schwab is sworn into office as a new member of the federal civil servant corps. Explaining Why do you think such position holders are sworn in rather than simply hired like other government workers?
The Bureaucracy in Action

The executive branch of government must carry out the many programs that Congress has created to serve the American people. Executive departments and agencies do this by performing three basic jobs. First, they turn new laws into action by deciding how to apply the laws to daily life. When Congress writes new laws, it often uses very general language. Federal agencies then must develop specific rules and procedures to put the laws into practice.

Second, departments and agencies administer the day-to-day operations of the federal government. Agencies deliver the mail, collect taxes, send out Social Security checks, and perform thousands of other services.

Regulatory Functions Third, with authority from Congress, federal agencies regulate various activities. They regulate, or police, the activities of broadcasting companies, labor unions, banks, airlines, nuclear power plants, and many other enterprises and organizations.

In doing these jobs, federal agencies help shape government policy. By deciding how to run a government program or what to do in a certain situation, federal agencies often determine what government policy will be.

Independent Agencies

The executive branch includes hundreds of independent agencies. They are called independent because they are not part of the cabinet. In general, however, these agencies can be divided into three types: executive agencies, government corporations, and regulatory commissions.

Executive Agencies These are independent agencies responsible for dealing with certain specialized areas within the government. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an example. It operates the United States space program.

Government Corporations More than 50 independent agencies are government corporations. These are like private businesses, except that the government rather than individuals owns and operates them. With Senate approval, the president chooses a board of directors and a general manager to run each corporation. Like private businesses, these corporations charge fees for their services and products, but they are not supposed to make a profit. The United States Postal Service, for example, is a government corporation.

Regulatory Boards and Commissions

These units differ from other independent agencies. They do not have to report to the president, who appoints the members but cannot fire them. Only Congress can remove them through impeachment.

Regulatory commissions are supposed to protect the public. They make and enforce rules for certain industries or groups. For instance, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) makes broadcasting rules for the nation’s television and radio stations.

Government Workers

Every executive department has thousands of employees. The top leadership jobs generally go to political appointees—people whom the president has chosen because they have proven executive ability or were important supporters of the president’s election campaign. Their employment usually ends when the president leaves office.

About 90 percent of all national government employees are civil service workers. Unlike political appointees, civil service workers usually have permanent employment. These are people, ranging from clerks to doctors and lawyers, employed by the federal government through the civil service system—the practice of hiring government workers on the basis of open, competitive examinations and merit.
Development of the Civil Service System

Originally, the executive branch was small enough for presidents to be able to choose most of their employees personally. Early presidents tried to appoint the most qualified people to federal jobs. They also, however, tended to appoint members of their own party, who shared similar views.

The Spoils System Before 1883 a great many federal jobs fell under the spoils system. In this system, government jobs went to people as a reward for their political support. Each newly elected president would sweep out most of the old federal workers and replace them with his own political supporters and friends. The idea was “To the victor belong the spoils [jobs].” Public dissatisfaction with abuses of the spoils system, and public outrage over the assassination of President James Garfield in 1881 by a man who was refused a job under the system, led Congress to pass the Pendleton Act.

The Merit System The Pendleton Act, also known as the Civil Service Reform Act of 1883, created the civil service system and placed limits on the number of jobs a new president could hand out to friends and backers. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) directs the civil service system today. It sets standards for federal jobs, and it gives demanding written tests to people who want those jobs. The civil service system is a merit system. Government officials hire new workers from lists of people who have passed the tests or otherwise met civil service standards.

Vocabulary

1. Write complete sentences related to the federal government using the following vocabulary terms: cabinet, federal bureaucracy, independent agency, government corporation, political appointee, civil service worker, civil service system, spoils system, merit system.

Main Ideas

2. Discuss the role of the Office of Management and Budget.
3. Describing Name three cabinet departments and describe their main duties.
4. Comparing Why has the federal bureaucracy grown over the years?

Critical Thinking

5. Making Inferences What part of the EOP do you think is the most important? Why?
6. Big Idea In the Venn diagram below, compare and contrast the types of workers employed by the federal government under the civil service system and those who are political employees.

Analyzing Visuals Review the cabinet departments of the executive branch on page 227. Why are there so many cabinet departments under the president of the United States?

Activity

8. Creative Writing Imagine that you are on a presidential commission looking into establishing a new executive department. Decide on an important issue facing the country today. Think of a new executive department to deal with this issue. Present your suggestion in a one-page report.

Civics Online To review this section, go to glencoe.com.
**The Presidency**

- The president is head of the executive branch of the federal government and is our nation’s top political leader.
- The source for the president’s authority is Article II of the Constitution, which says that “the executive power shall be vested in the president of the United States of America.”

_Electing the President_

- Presidents are elected through an indirect method called the Electoral College.

**Roles of the President**

In carrying out the responsibilities of the office, the president must play a number of different roles. These roles are:

- Chief executive
- Chief diplomat
- Commander in chief
- Legislative leader
- Head of state
- Economic leader
- Party leader

**Organization of the Federal Government**

- President
- Vice president
- Executive Office of the President
- Executive departments
- Federal bureaucracy

**Responsibilities**

- According to the Constitution, the president’s main job is to carry out the laws passed by Congress.
- As head of the executive branch of government, the president must make decisions that affect the lives of all Americans.

**Tools of Foreign Policy**

The president and Congress use many tools to carry out American foreign policy. These tools include:

- Treaties and executive agreements
- Appointing ambassadors
- Foreign aid
- International trade
- Military force
Standardized Test Practice

ASSessment

TEST-TAKING TIP

When taking a test, watch for usually, never, most, and other qualifying words that indicate under what circumstances an answer is correct.

Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word(s) that best completes the sentence.

1. The Constitution provides an indirect method of electing a president called the ______.
   A merit system  C spoils system
   B Electoral College  D executive agreement

2. The president can delay the punishment of a person by issuing a(n) ______.
   A pardon  C reprieve
   B amnesty  D executive order

3. The nation’s plan for dealing with other nations is called its ______.
   A foreign policy  C trade sanctions
   B national security  D federal bureaucracy

4. Most national government employees are ______.
   A ambassadors  C cabinet members
   B civil service workers  D political appointees

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

Section 1 (pp. 208–213)

5. Which president was elected to four terms?
   A George Washington
   B Abraham Lincoln
   C Franklin Roosevelt
   D George W. Bush

6. Why was the Twenty-fifth Amendment passed?
   A to create the Electoral College
   B to limit presidents to two terms
   C to establish the order of presidential succession
   D to clarify when a vice president becomes president

Section 2 (pp. 214–218)

7. Which of the following powers does the Constitution give the president?
   A to declare war on other nations
   B to appoint judges to federal courts
   C to ignore laws passed by Congress
   D to strike down unconstitutional laws

8. How does a president fulfill the role of economic leader?
   A by planning the federal budget
   B by meeting with foreign leaders
   C by raising funds for his or her party
   D by proposing legislation to Congress

Section 3 (pp. 219–223)

9. Which of the following is NOT a primary goal of American foreign policy?
   A world peace
   B national security
   C better health care
   D international trade

Section 4 (pp. 224–230)

10. What part of the Executive Office of the President supervises the Central Intelligence Agency?
    A Office of Administration
    B National Security Council
    C Council of Economic Advisers
    D Office of Management and Budget

11. What is the responsibility of the Department of the Interior?
    A school funding
    B natural resources
    C problems of cities
    D trade, business, and tourism
Critical Thinking
Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

Base your answers to questions 12 and 13 on the chart below and your knowledge of Chapter 7.

Order of 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

12. How many office holders listed on the chart are elected officials?
   A none   B one   C three   D eighteen

13. The offices in the line of succession are ordered according to the dates they were created. What would it take to change that order?
   A an executive order   B a law passed by Congress   C a Supreme Court decision   D a Constitutional Amendment

Document-Based Questions
Directions: Analyze the following document and answer the short-answer questions that follow.

The passage below is from George Washington’s Farewell Address given at his retirement.

Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies [deep-rooted hatred] against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings toward all should be cultivated. . . .


14. Which role of the president does Washington discuss in the passage?
15. Which member of the cabinet would most likely assist Washington’s successor in achieving the goals described in the passage?

Extended Response
16. Which do you think is the most effective foreign diplomacy tool: foreign aid, trade sanctions, or military force? Write a brief essay giving reasons for your choice.

Need Extra Help?
If you missed question . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Go to page . . . 210 217 220 229 212 213 215 218 220 225 227 227 213 216 216 222

For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 7 on glencoe.com.
The White House

An intricate model takes visitors behind the scenes at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Described by former President Gerald Ford as “the best public housing in the world” and by former President Harry S. Truman as a “glamorous prison,” the White House was first occupied by President John Adams in 1800. Two centuries later, the White House is a village of 6,000 busy souls: On a typical day, the President and First Lady, journalists, cooks, cops, gardeners, and tourists operate in harmony on 18 acres.

In 1962, John and Jan Zweifel of Orlando, Florida, set out to bring the White House to the American people by constructing the detailed model shown at right. Except for the location of the library, which was pushed forward for show purposes, the Zweifels’ White House is a faithful recreation of the original, down to TVS, furniture, and paintings. The Zweifels contact the White House every few weeks to find out if anything has changed. The 60-foot by 20-foot, 10-ton model, which includes the East and West wings (not shown), took more than 500,000 hours to construct and cost more than $1 million. It is built on a scale of 1 inch to 1 foot.

1 SITTING ROOM
Generally claimed by the First Lady, this room has an unusual distinction: It was allocated one of the building’s first indoor toilets in 1801.

2 MASTER BEDROOM
Nancy Reagan, who served as First Lady from 1981 to 1989, decorated this bedroom in hand-painted paper that was imported from China.

3 PRESIDENT’S STUDY
Franklin Delano Roosevelt used this study as a bedroom; the Reagans liked to have quiet dinners here in front of the television.

4 YELLOW OVAL ROOM
One of the most historic rooms in the house, it took on the color yellow during the tenure of First Lady Dolley Madison.

5 TREATY ROOM
Originally a large bedroom, this room served as Bill Clinton’s office in the residence.

6 LINCOLN BEDROOM
Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation here.

7 LINCOLN SITTING ROOM
William McKinley’s war room during the Spanish-American War.

8 STATE DINING ROOM
Gilbert Stuart’s portrait of George Washington (which was later used on the one-dollar bill) hung here when the British torched the mansion in 1814. (The portrait survived the fire.)

9 RED ROOM
John Adams’s breakfast room was where Rutherford B. Hayes took the oath of office in 1877.
**A Long Road**

The Zweifels’ quest to create a replica of the White House took decades. After going on hundreds of public tours of the mansion, they finally persuaded President Gerald Ford to let them look behind the scenes.