



FLORIDA...

The Story Continues

CHAPTER 6, The Executive Branch

PEOPLE

1993: Janet Reno. Floridian Janet Reno has devoted her life to law and public service. As staff director of the Judiciary Committee of the Florida House of Representatives, she helped revise the Florida court system. In 1993, she became the first woman Attorney General of the United States. She served under President Bill Clinton. Reno was responsible for enforcing national policies on crime, race relations, immigration, and other legal issues affecting many aspects of American life. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in October 2000.

PLACES

1946–1952: Little White House. The “Little White House” in Key West was the winter White House for President Harry S. Truman for 175 days during 11 visits between 1946 and 1952. Truman first visited the home in November 1946. He was exhausted after a demanding 19 months in office. He loved Key West so much he promised to return regularly—and did so. Six other American presidents—including Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy—have also used the house, both as a retreat and as a summit meeting location.

PEOPLE

1967: Alan Stephenson Boyd. Jacksonville native Alan Stephenson Boyd was the first U.S. Secretary of Transportation. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967. As secretary, Boyd worked on airport modernization, air traffic control requirements, and auto safety standards for driver education and alcoholism. After his term ended, Boyd became president of the Illinois Central Railroad, and then of Amtrak.

EVENTS**1869: President Andrew Johnson pardons Samuel Mudd.**

Samuel Alexander Mudd was the Maryland physician who aided Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Mudd was imprisoned at Fort Jefferson in the Florida Keys. A yellow fever outbreak caused many deaths at the prison, including the prison doctor. Mudd was allowed to take over as doctor of the prison during the yellow fever outbreak. He quelled the fever and stopped the deaths in the prison. The soldiers at Fort Jefferson urged then-President Andrew Johnson to pardon Mudd for his work. Johnson did so in 1869.

EVENTS**1819: Adams-Onís Treaty.**

The 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty gave Florida to the United States. It also established a boundary between the U.S. and New Spain (present-day Mexico). Because of trouble with the Seminole Indians, the U.S. army was already a strong presence in the territory. Spanish

foreign minister Luis de Onís faced the possibility of losing Florida with no compensation at all. He negotiated the treaty with Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. Under the treaty, the U.S. agreed to pay its citizens' claims against Spain up to \$5 million.

PEOPLE**2011: Carol Browner.**

Carol Browner is a lawyer, environmentalist, and businesswoman. Until January 2011, she headed the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy for the Obama administration. She previously served under President Bill Clinton as EPA administrator. Browner grew up in Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida and that university's College of Law.



Unpacking the Florida Standards <...

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark SS.7.C.3.13 Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.

What does it mean?

Discuss the similarities and differences between the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution. Go to Chapter 3, The United States Constitution, and Chapter 8, State Government, for help.

CHAPTER 6

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Essential Question What are the main functions and powers of the executive branch?



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SS.7.C.1.7 Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.

SS.7.C.3.3 Illustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.

SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. **SS.7.C.3.13** Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida. **SS.7.C.4.1** Differentiate concepts related to United States domestic and foreign policy. **LA.7.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly. **LA.7.1.7.1** The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection. **LA.7.1.7.3** The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

SECTION 3 Executive Departments and the Cabinet



**HISTORY**


Barack Obama

 hmhsocialstudies.com VIDEO

WHY CIVICS Matters

On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States and the first African American to hold that office. More than 1 million people gathered in Washington, D.C., to attend his inauguration.



STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROMOTING RECYCLING Many recycling centers in Massachusetts had closed because they were not making enough money. A group of students figured out ways to make recycling profitable again, and proposed changes that will put these recycling centers back in business. What can you do in your community to promote or expand recycling efforts?

FOCUS ON WRITING

A CHARACTER SKETCH What qualifications and characteristics must a man or woman have to hold the highest office in our country? As you read this chapter, take notes on the duties and responsibilities of the president. Think about the types of skills and knowledge a person must have to do the job well.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about the executive branch of the federal government, which is responsible for carrying out the country's laws. You will learn about the qualifications and election of the president, who is the head of the execu-

tive branch. You will learn about the powers and roles of the president and the 15 executive departments. Finally, you will read about the independent agencies and other departments that assist the executive branch.

Supporting Facts and Details

FOCUS ON READING

Main ideas and big ideas are just that, ideas. How do we know what those ideas really mean?

Understanding Ideas and Their Support A main idea or big idea may be a kind of summary statement, or it may be a statement of the author's opinion. Either way, a good reader looks to see what support—facts and various kinds of details—the writer provides. If the writer does not provide good support, the ideas may not be trustworthy. Notice how the passage below uses facts and details to support the main idea.

When George Washington became the nation's first president, no one knew what to call him. Vice President John Adams wanted to call him His Highness, the President of the United States and Protector of the Rights of the Same. The Senate supported the title, but the House of Representatives did not. Washington also wanted a simpler title. Leaders of the new government agreed to simply call their new president Mr. President. All U.S. presidents since then have gone by this title.

The main idea is stated first.

These sentences provide facts and anecdotes about the process of deciding a formal title for the president.

The writer concludes with a fact that sums up the history of the president's title.

Helpful Hints for Identifying Supporting Facts and Details

1. Look for **facts and statistics**. Facts are statements that can be proved. Statistics are facts in number form.
2. Watch for **examples**, specific instances that illustrate the facts.
3. Recognize **anecdotes**, brief stories that help explain the facts.
4. Watch for **definitions**, explanations of unusual terms or words.
5. Look for **comments from experts or eyewitnesses**, statements that help support the reasons.



LA.7.1.7.3



You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. Read it and then answer the questions below.

Department of State

Foreign policy is the special responsibility of the Department of State. The secretary of state heads a large staff of officials who represent the United States around the world. Ambassadors are the highest-ranking U.S. representatives in foreign countries. The official residence and offices of an ambassador in a foreign country are called an embassy. A consul represents U.S. commercial interests in foreign countries.

*From Chapter 6
p. 169*

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence best states the writer's main idea?
 - a. A consul represents U.S. commercial interests in foreign countries.
 - b. Ambassadors are the highest-ranking U.S. representatives in foreign countries.
 - c. Foreign policy is the special responsibility of the Department of State.
2. Which method of support is not used to support the main idea?
 - a. facts
 - b. definitions
 - c. anecdotes
3. Which sentence in this passage provides an example?

As you read Chapter 6, notice what kinds of supporting facts and details help you understand the big ideas.

KEY TERMS

Chapter 6

Section 1

presidential succession (p. 162)

Section 2

State of the Union Address (p. 164)

foreign policy (p. 165)

diplomacy (p. 166)

treaties (p. 166)

reprieve (p. 166)

pardon (p. 166)

commutation (p. 166)

Section 3

secretary (p. 168)

attorney general (p. 169)

ambassadors (p. 169)

embassy (p. 169)

consul (p. 169)

consulate (p. 169)

passports (p. 169)

visas (p. 169)

Joint Chiefs of Staff (p. 169)

Department of Homeland Security (p. 170)

Section 4

independent agencies (p. 171)

regulatory commission (p. 172)

bureaucracy (p. 173)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

role (p. 162)

neutral (p. 166)

distinct (p. 168)

established (p. 172)

SECTION 1



SS.7.C.3.3; SS.7.C.3.8; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

The Presidency

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The president and the vice president are required to have certain qualifications.

Reading Focus

1. What are the qualifications and terms of office for the presidency?
2. What are the duties of the vice president?
3. What are the rules of succession for the presidency?

Key Terms

presidential succession, p. 162



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the qualifications to be president, the vice president's duties, and presidential succession.



Barack Obama celebrated his victory in the 2008 presidential election with his supporters in Chicago's Grant Park. He is pictured here with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Sasha and Malia (left to right).

SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.



The U.S. president is our highest elected official and is one of the most powerful persons in the world.

The Presidency

Who can become president? The Constitution sets forth only three qualifications that the president of the United States must meet. The president must

1. be a native-born U.S. citizen;
2. be at least 35 years of age; and
3. have been a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.

As stated by the U.S. Constitution, the president is elected to a four-year term. However, the Constitution did not originally specify how many terms the president could serve. In fact, many people urged George Washington to run for a third term. He refused to do so and thereby set the precedent of a two-term limit. No one broke this two-term tradition until Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a third term as president in 1940. In 1944 he won a fourth and final term. In 1951 the passage of the Twenty-second Amendment set a two-term limit to the presidency.

The president is paid a salary of \$400,000 a year, plus a \$50,000 nontaxable allowance, plus an annual allowance for travel costs. What kind of person has taken the job of president? So far, all the people who have been elected president have shared similar traits. Until 2008, all had been white men. Most have been Christian. Most presidents have attended college. Many have been lawyers, and most have held other state or national political offices before becoming president.

Recently, though, more women and members of minority groups have run for president. In 2004 African Americans Carol Moseley Braun and the Reverend Alfred C. “Al” Sharpton sought the Democratic Party’s nomination. In 2008 Senator Barack Obama of Illinois made history when he became the first African American to be elected president of the United States, as the Democratic nominee. Also in 2008 Sarah Palin, a Republican, became the second woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What qualifications does the Constitution require of the president of the United States?

The Vice Presidency

For much of the country’s history, a vice president had very little to do. What are the responsibilities of the modern vice president? One very important responsibility is to serve as president if the president dies, leaves office, or is unable to fulfill his or her duties. Eight presidents have died while in office, and one president resigned. In each case, the vice president was sworn in as president. The vice president also serves a four-year term and must meet the same constitutional qualifications as the president. The vice president receives a salary of \$208,100 a year, plus a \$10,000 taxable expense allowance.

The vice president has only one other job defined in the Constitution—to preside over the Senate. However, the vice president is not a member of the Senate. He or she cannot take part in Senate debates and may vote only in the case of a tie.

In recent years, presidents have given their vice presidents more responsibilities than those described by the Constitution.

Linking to Today

Modern Vice Presidents

In the first three U.S. presidential elections, vice presidents had little responsibility, outside of breaking tie votes in the Senate. As Thomas Jefferson once described the position, “a more tranquil and unoffending station could not have been found.”

In the last 100 years, as the job of vice president has become more complex, the relationship between the president and the vice president has changed. Vice presidents now attend cabinet meetings regularly, serve on the National Security Council, and take a visible role in domestic and foreign policy.



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

In today’s world, what are three ways a vice president might assist the president?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

role: a part or function

Presidents often send their vice presidents to represent the United States overseas. Vice presidents usually work closely with the president in order to be fully informed on the issues. For example, Vice President Dick Cheney had an important **role** on President

Bush's team. He became involved in developing policy and in gathering support for the president's programs.

READING CHECK

Contrasting How have vice presidential duties changed in recent years?

The Rules of Succession

The president's death or resignation means the vice president succeeds. The Twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution provides that the new president nominates a new vice president. That nomination must be approved by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.

If both the president and the vice president die or leave office, the Twentieth Amendment gives Congress the power to set the order of **presidential succession**. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is first in line for the office. The Speaker is followed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and then the members of the president's cabinet in the order in which their departments were created.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What is the order of presidential succession?



FOCUS ON Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)

Abraham Lincoln is one of the great symbols of American democracy. Lincoln did not have a formal education. He taught

himself at home. He became a lawyer and settled in Springfield, Illinois, where he began his political career. Lincoln was elected president in 1860. Lincoln once said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln led the nation through the Civil War. In 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It freed slaves in the rebelling states of the South. Following the war he supported the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery. At age 56, Lincoln's life was cut short by an assassin.

Make Inferences Why might Lincoln be considered one of the great symbols of American democracy?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



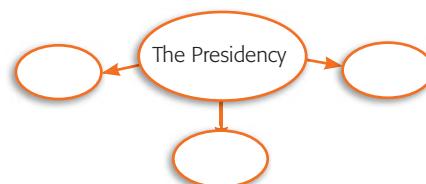
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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Recall** What are the three qualifications a person must meet to become president of the United States?
b. Summarize What characteristics have many presidents shared?
- a. Summarize** What are the roles of the vice president as defined by the Constitution?
b. Draw Inferences and Conclusions Why do you think presidents, in recent years, have given vice presidents more responsibilities?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the term **presidential succession**.
b. Summarize If the president dies or resigns, who succeeds to the job?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Use a graphic organizer like this one to show the qualifications to be president, the duties of the vice president, and the order of presidential succession.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Making Generalizations and Predictions** Write a two-paragraph essay describing the advantages and disadvantages of the Twenty-second Amendment.

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



Promoting Recycling

I like helping out with problems,” said Caroline Doan, a student from Quabbin Regional Middle School in western Massachusetts. She and fellow Project Citizen students, supported by teachers Erin Stevens and Todd D. Stewart, have indeed worked hard to solve problems affecting recycling in their state. The class even received input on their ideas from a key representative of the state executive branch.

Community Connection The teens researched recycling efforts. They found that hundreds of bottle and can redemption centers had closed. The centers did not make enough money. The students determined that raising the handling fee would make centers more profitable. This move would also allow the centers to hire more employees to sort recyclable items. Consumers wouldn’t have to do the sorting.

Taking Action The students contacted public officials to answer questions and give them advice on their proposal. Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey came to visit the students. He answered questions about the issue. Following the lieutenant governor’s advice, the students prepared a bill. It would increase the handling fee that drink distributors pay to redemption centers from 2.25 cents per bottle or can to 3 cents. After obtaining a sponsor in the state Senate, the class members went to the capital to present their bill. Then the state House of Representatives filed its own similar bill. The students had support from the governor’s office and both houses of the legislature.



Senator Stephen M. Brewer discusses recycling plans with Project Citizen students.

SERVICE LEARNING

21ST CENTURY

1. What specific environmental problem did the students identify in their community?
2. How did the students go about convincing the legislature to support their idea? How did support from the state executive branch help their cause?

 hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**



Powers and Roles of the President

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea


The powers and roles of the U.S. president affect not only the citizens of the United States but also people throughout the world.

Reading Focus

1. What are some of the leadership roles of the president?
2. What powers does the president have?

Key Terms

State of the Union Address, *p. 164*
foreign policy, *p. 165*
diplomacy, *p. 166*
treaties, *p. 166*
reprieve, *p. 166*
pardon, *p. 166*
commutation, *p. 166*

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TAKING NOTES
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the powers of the president.



Ancient kings had absolute, or total, power. What they wished became law. The framers of the Constitution wanted a strong president but not one with unlimited power. As commander in chief, for example, the president can send troops to trouble spots outside the country. However, Congress must approve the action. The president can nominate a justice to the Supreme Court, but Congress must approve the appointment. In this manner, executive power is balanced by legislative power.

The President's Roles

The Constitution states that “the executive power shall be vested in [given to] a President of the United States of America.” This power applies to several areas of the government, including the military and foreign policy.

Legislative Leader

The president recommends, or suggests, new laws to Congress. Every year the president delivers a **State of the Union Address** to

Congress. This televised speech is usually presented in late January. It sets forth the programs and policies that the president wants Congress to put into effect as laws. These programs and policies usually address the country’s most pressing concerns. The president also sends Congress a budget proposing how the federal government should raise and spend money. In this budget, the president recommends laws and programs to help the economy. The legislature takes the president’s budget plan into account at budget time.

The president also influences Congress by indicating what legislation he or she does not want. One powerful way for the president to do this is by using the veto. This tactic is so effective that just the threat of a presidential veto often discourages Congress from passing a bill. It takes a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress to override a veto, or pass a bill after the president has vetoed it.

SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

The Constitution and the Presidency

What do you want to be when you get older? Have you thought about becoming a teacher, a movie star, or the chief of police? Maybe you'd like to become president!

Why it Matters

In the United States, you do not have to be born into a wealthy, famous, or powerful family to become president. Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution lists only three requirements. The candidate must be at least 35 years old, must have been born in the United States, and must have lived in this country for at least 14 years.

Past presidents have had very varied backgrounds. Abraham Lincoln split fence posts and worked in a store before he became a lawyer and held elected office. Harry Truman was a farmer and a store owner. Woodrow Wilson was a college professor, and Ronald Reagan was an actor.



Ronald Reagan, U.S. president from 1981 to 1989, was a TV and movie actor before he went into politics.

ANALYSIS SKILL

EVALUATING THE LAW

Do you think that being a natural-born citizen should still be a requirement for being president? Explain.

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

Commander in Chief

The president is the head, or commander in chief, of the U.S. armed forces. This means that all military officers, during war or in peacetime, ultimately answer to the president. The president is also in constant contact with U.S. military leaders and has the final say in planning how a war is to be fought.

Under the Constitution, only Congress can declare war. However, the president may send forces to any part of the world where U.S. interests are threatened. Presidents have sent troops into action in foreign lands many times in U.S. history. However, this power is limited. Congress passed the War Powers Resolution in 1973. This act requires that the president recall troops sent abroad within 60 days,

unless Congress approves the action. The 60 days may be extended to 90 days if necessary to ensure the safe removal of U.S. troops.

Foreign Policy Leader

The president must give constant attention to U.S. foreign policy. **Foreign policy** is the government's plan for interacting with the other countries of the world. The actions of the United States affect nations everywhere. The actions of many other countries may also strongly impact the United States. Because of this, the president tries to secure friendly relations with foreign countries while preserving national security.

The president appoints diplomats to represent the U.S. government in foreign countries.

SS.7.C.4.1
Differentiate concepts related to United States domestic and foreign policy.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

neutral: unbiased, not favoring either side in a conflict

The president also meets with leaders and representatives of other countries in the United States, in the officials' home nations, and at **neutral** locations. The art of interacting with foreign governments is called **diplomacy**. A president's visits to foreign countries builds international friendship and security, and promotes U.S. interests. And no matter where the president is, he or she has immediate access to a powerful and sophisticated communications system that provides the connections with other governments whenever necessary.

The U.S. government also makes written agreements, called **treaties**, with other countries. Many officials work to reach these agreements. The president, however, assumes the final responsibility for the agreements. All treaties must be made with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Senate must approve a treaty by a two-thirds vote before it becomes effective. The president then makes sure that the treaty is carried out.

READING CHECK

Evaluating How can the president influence legislation, the military, and foreign policy?

More Presidential Powers

The Constitution also gives the president the power to appoint Supreme Court justices and other federal judges. Some presidents, such as President Bush in 2005, have the rare opportunity to name two justices in the same year. Under our system of checks and balances, these judicial appointments must be confirmed by a majority vote of the members of the Senate.

In addition, the president has the power to grant reprieves and pardons to those who have committed certain federal crimes. A **reprieve** postpones the carrying out of a person's sentence. If the president believes that a person has been wrongly convicted of a crime, received punishment that was too harsh, or has reformed, the president can issue a pardon. A **pardon** forgives a person for his or her crime and eliminates the punishment. The president also has the power of **commutation**, reducing a person's sentence.

READING CHECK

Contrasting What is the difference between a pardon and a commutation?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the following terms **State of the Union Address**, **foreign policy**, **diplomacy**, and **treaties**.
b. Summarize What different military powers do the president and Congress have?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the terms **reprieve**, **pardon**, and **commutation**.
b. Summarize What are some of the judicial powers held by the president?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Categorizing** Copy the graphic organizer to the right. Use it to explain the duties that accompany each presidential role.

| Presidential Role | Duty |
|-----------------------|------|
| Legislative leader | |
| Commander in chief | |
| Foreign-policy leader | |
| Chief of state | |
| Judicial powers | |

FOCUS ON WRITING

- 4. Problem Solving** Using the president's State of the Union Address as a model, write a State of the School Address. In your speech, identify some of the challenges facing your school, suggest possible solutions, and provide a plan to resolve them.

Evaluating Internet Resources

Learn

The Internet provides a wealth of information. With the help of a search engine, you can learn about anything from the fall of the Roman Empire to the powers granted to the American president.

The Internet is a useful reference source that you can use anywhere there is a computer and online access. However, you need to be aware that not all Internet references are sources you can trust. Almost anyone can create a Web page and fill it with information. When using the Internet, you need to practice identifying reliable and unreliable sources of information.

Practice

1 Determine the source. Trusted Internet sources include online reference books, such as encyclopedias, and government Web pages. A good source always identifies a knowledgeable author or a known producer. While someone's personal Web site might provide interesting information, it might not be reliable.

2 Pay attention to content. A good Internet source will present the facts and not try to influence a reader toward a particular point of view. It also will present references for its information and links to relevant sites.

3 Check the date. Most Internet pages indicate at the bottom of the page when they have been updated. Use this date to make sure the Web site contains timely information.

4 Think about quality. If a page is messy or includes mistakes in grammar or spelling, the author may not be reliable. It is likely a personal Web site, which is a limited source of information.

Apply

Answer the following questions by looking at the Internet page.

1. Would you consider this page a good source of general information about the Department of Justice? What makes it a good source?
2. Of what use is the <http://www.usdoj.gov> link? What kind of information did you find there?
3. Look at the Web page below. What makes it reliable or unreliable? What are the questions you would raise about this site?

Holt Researcher HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON

Economy and Government > Politics & Government

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Created: 1870
Title of Chief Officer: attorney general
Functions: enforces the law in the public interest, protects citizens through its efforts in crime prevention and rehabilitation of criminals, protects consumers, ensures fair competition among businesses, represents the United States in legal matters, supervises U.S. marshals and U.S. attorneys
Agencies and Commissions: Bureau of Prisons, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office for U.S. Attorneys, Office of Information and Privacy, Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Parole Commission
Related Links:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/>

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH 167

SECTION 3



SS.7.C.3.3; SS.7.C.3.8; SS.7.C.3.13, SS.7.C.4.1; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Executive Departments and the Cabinet

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The executive branch of the U.S. government is divided into several departments, each of which has certain duties.

Reading Focus

1. What is the Executive Office of the President, and what is the cabinet?
2. What are the purposes of the Department of State and the Department of Defense?
3. What are the other executive departments in the federal government?

Key Terms

secretary, *p. 168*
attorney general, *p. 169*
ambassadors, *p. 169*
embassy, *p. 169*
consul, *p. 169*
consulate, *p. 169*
passports, *p. 169*
visas, *p. 169*
Joint Chiefs of Staff, *p. 169*
Department of Homeland Security, *p. 170*

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the executive departments and their responsibilities.



If you have a tough decision to make, it often helps to get advice from someone—a parent or a teacher—who might know more about the issue or who can provide a different point of view. Likewise, the president has people who can help with those tough decisions.

The Executive Office and the Cabinet

The president has a group of close advisers and aides known as the Executive Office of the President. Because of the complexity and scope of current issues, the president needs many advisers who are specialists in certain areas. For example, the president's top-ranking group of advisers on matters concerning defense and security is called the National Security Council (NSC).

The White House Office falls under the Executive Office of the President. It includes

the president's closest personal and political advisers, and a press secretary who represents the president to the news media and to the public. This office also includes researchers, clerical staff, secretaries, and other assistants. They schedule appointments and write speeches. They also help maintain good relationships with Congress and with other departments of the executive branch.

The executive branch under George Washington initially had three departments. The heads of these departments formed the president's cabinet. In 2010 there were 15 departments in the executive branch. Each has a **distinct** area of responsibility. The chart on the next page shows the names of each executive department. The president appoints the members of the cabinet. However, the Senate must approve these appointments by a majority vote.

The title of most cabinet members is **secretary**. For example, the head of the

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
distinct: separate

The Cabinet and the President



Cabinet members, plus the vice president, act as the president's official advisory group. The president appoints members of the cabinet and the Senate must confirm them.

| Cabinet Departments | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Department of Agriculture | Department of the Interior | Department of Commerce | Department of Justice |
| Department of Defense | Department of Labor | Department of Education | Department of State |
| Department of Energy | Department of Transportation | Department of Health and Human Services | Department of the Treasury |
| Department of Homeland Security | Department of Veterans Affairs | Department of Housing and Urban Development | <i>The president may create new cabinet seats at any time.</i> |

Department of State is called the secretary of state. The head of the Department of the Treasury is called the secretary of the treasury. The head of the Department of Justice, however, is known as the **attorney general**.

READING CHECK

Recalling Who makes up the president's cabinet?

Departments of State and Defense

Two very important departments are those of State and Defense. Both help maintain U.S. relations with the rest of the world.

Department of State

Foreign policy is the special responsibility of the Department of State. The secretary of state heads a large staff of officials who represent the United States around the world. **Ambassadors** are the highest-ranking U.S. representatives in foreign countries. The official residence and offices of an ambassador in a foreign country are called an **embassy**. A **consul** represents U.S. commercial interests in foreign countries. A U.S. consul's office, or **consulate**, can be found in most large foreign cities.

At home the Department of State's duties include keeping track of people traveling to and from the United States. One way it does this is by issuing documents known as passports and visas. **Passports** are formal documents that allow U.S. citizens to travel abroad. **Visas** allow foreigners to come to the United States.

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense is in charge of the nation's armed forces. It operates hundreds of military bases in the United States and in other nations. Aside from military action, U.S. armed forces are used in relief efforts when other countries suffer from a natural disaster, such as the tsunami that devastated several southern Asian countries in 2004.

The secretary of defense is always a civilian. This ensures nonmilitary control over the armed forces. However, the secretary has military officers as assistants. The highest-ranking military officers of each of the armed forces form the **Joint Chiefs of Staff**. This group advises the president on military affairs.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What are the responsibilities of the Department of State and the Department of Defense?

FOCUS ON

Cabinet selection is one way that Florida's constitution differs from the U.S. Constitution. Unlike the U.S. Constitution, the Florida constitution identifies specific cabinet positions that must be part of the executive branch. In addition, cabinet members must be elected by voters, not appointed.

SS.7.C.3.13
Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.

Other Executive Departments

Congress has the power to reorganize and combine different executive departments as needed. Congress can also create new departments if necessary. For example, the **Department of Homeland Security** was established after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Its primary mission is to protect the nation against further terrorist attacks. The department also provides federal assistance when natural disasters occur in the United States. Examples are Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005.

Departments other than State and Defense play important roles in U.S. government. For example, the Treasury Department promotes conditions for economic prosperity

and stability in the United States and in the rest of the world. Some of the major duties of the Treasury Department include managing federal finances; collecting taxes, duties and monies paid to and due to the government; producing postage stamps, currency and coinage; and investigating and prosecuting tax evaders, counterfeiters, and forgers.

The Department of Justice has the job of enforcing the laws of the United States. It helps to ensure public safety against foreign and domestic threats. It is the government agency that works to prevent and control crime. It is also committed to ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea Why was the Department of Homeland Security formed?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition for the terms **secretary** and **attorney general**.
 - Draw Conclusions** Why must the Senate approve the president's cabinet appointments?
- Define** Write a brief definition for the terms **ambassadors, embassy, consul, consulate, passports, visas, and Joint Chiefs of Staff**.
 - Make Inferences** Why do you think the Departments of War and the Navy were combined to form the Department of Defense?
- Define** Write a brief definition for the term **Department of Homeland Security**.
 - Defend a Point of View** What do you think is the most important executive department? Why?
 - Draw Conclusions** Could a modern president run government with four cabinet members, as George Washington did? Does a president today need 15 cabinet members? Explain.

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to describe the responsibilities of each of the five departments listed.

| Department | Function |
|-------------------|----------|
| State | |
| Treasury | |
| Defense | |
| Justice | |
| Homeland Security | |

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Problem Solving** Imagine that you are a newly appointed secretary to an executive department (of your choice). Your first duty is to write a memo to the president. In two paragraphs, describe the most pressing national issue facing your department and explain a plan to address it. Be sure to explain how your plan will affect citizens.

SECTION 4



SS.7.C.3.3; SS.7.C.3.8; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Independent Agencies and Regulatory Commissions

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The independent agencies and regulatory commissions of the U.S. government perform specialized duties.

Reading Focus

1. What are some examples of independent agencies, and what duties do they perform?
2. What are regulatory commissions, and who runs them?
3. What makes up the federal bureaucracy?

Key Terms

independent agencies, p. 171
regulatory commission, p. 172
bureaucracy, p. 173



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the duties of federal independent agencies and regulatory commissions.

The space shuttle *Discovery* takes off on a mission to the International Space Station.

NASA, an independent agency, runs the U.S. space program.



The executive branch has many duties that do not fit any of the 15 executive departments. Independent agencies and regulatory commissions have been created to cover such areas.

Independent Agencies

Each of the more than 65 **independent agencies** in the government was created by Congress to perform a specialized job. For example, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights collects information about discrimination against minorities. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) runs the U.S. space program.

Several agencies assist the work of the entire government. For example, the Office of Personnel Management gives tests to people who want to apply for jobs with the federal government. The General Services Administration buys supplies for the federal government.

READING CHECK

Summarizing Why are independent government agencies important?

PRIMARY SOURCE

POLITICAL CARTOON

Regulatory Agencies

Federal regulatory commissions and agencies are where many specific laws are made. These commissions and agencies perform important functions, but people sometimes complain that the rules and regulations from these agencies are too complex. This cartoon shows how “red tape” affected government efforts to help fight a natural disaster.



The term *red tape* is often used as a symbol for government paperwork. It refers to the practice of tying government documents with red cloth tape.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS

What is the cartoonist saying about the government's response to a natural disaster?

Regulatory Commissions

A **regulatory commission** is a type of independent agency. It has the power to make rules and bring violators to court. The decisions of regulatory commissions often have the force of law.

Regulatory commissions are usually **established** because of a perceived need. For example, in 1971 the federal government determined that the financing and running of federal elections should be closely monitored. In response to this need, Congress passed the Federal Election Campaign Act. A regulatory commission called the Federal Election Commission (FEC) was created in 1974 to enforce this act. The FEC enforces election laws, provides financial information for campaigns, and controls public funding of presidential elections.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is another example of a regulatory commission. It sets and enforces safety standards for consumer products and conducts safety

research. The Securities and Exchange Commission helps enforce laws regulating the buying and selling of stocks and bonds. The National Labor Relations Board enforces federal labor laws. This board also works to prevent unfair labor practices among businesses.

The heads of the regulatory commissions are appointed by the president. These commissions are independent. They have the freedom they need to do their jobs. As a result, they have a lot of power in their particular areas.

Because of this power, Congress wanted to help prevent the commissions from being too influenced by a single president and his or her political party. The heads of these commissions, therefore, serve long terms. As a result, a single president cannot appoint more than a few commission leaders. In addition, the Senate must approve all of these appointments.

Some people claim that the independence of the regulatory commissions makes

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

established: set up or created

them too powerful. Many critics feel that these commissions over-regulate and interfere too much in our lives. Other people defend these commissions. They say that the commissions' regulations are needed to protect the public.

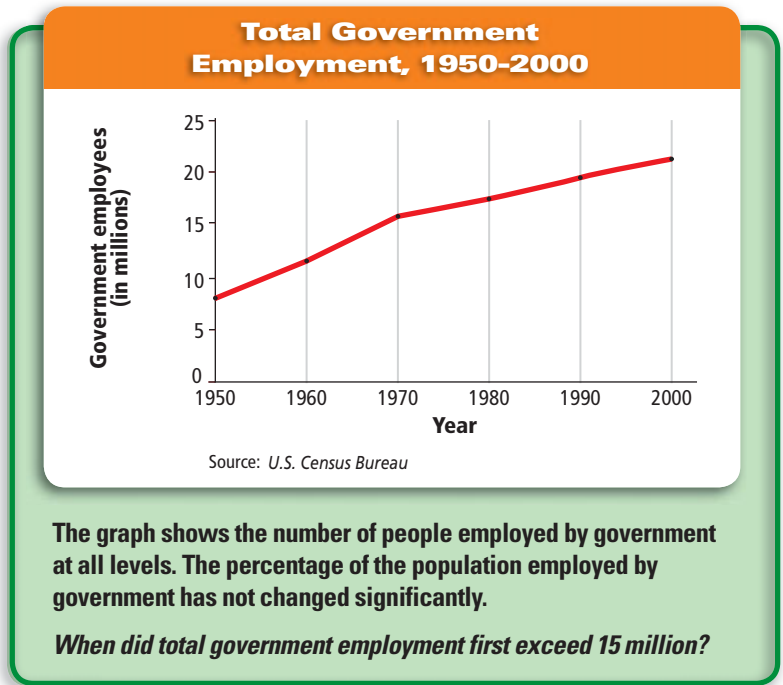
READING CHECK

Contrasting What makes a regulatory commission different from other independent agencies?

The Federal Bureaucracy

All of the employees of these agencies, as well as those of the executive departments, make up the federal **bureaucracy**. Almost 3 million people work in the bureaucracy. They include administrators, lawyers, scientists, doctors, engineers, secretaries, and clerks. They work in Washington, D.C., in other cities throughout the United States, and in foreign countries.

As you can see, the federal bureaucracy is quite large. It is involved in many areas of daily life. It makes many rules and regulations. Some people complain that the regulations are confusing. Often several different departments may be involved in regulating the same area. Sometimes people dealing with government agencies must fill out



several forms or stand in long lines to see a government representative. And the government is not always efficient in working with the public. However, other people argue that the complexity of modern life requires many layers of oversight and management.

READING CHECK

Identifying Cause and Effect What does the bureaucracy use to carry out activities, and what is often the result?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the term **independent agencies**.

b. Recall What independent agency collects information about discrimination?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the following term: **regulatory commission**.

b. Summarize How has Congress tried to limit the influence of the president on regulatory commissions?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the term **bureaucracy**.

b. Explain What are some criticisms of the federal bureaucracy?

Critical Thinking

- Making Comparisons** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to show the similarities and differences between independent agencies and regulatory commissions.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you are seeking federal loans to start a small business. Write a three-paragraph speech that either supports or criticizes the role of the federal bureaucracy.

CHAPTER 6 REVIEW



FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The quotation below is from a historic document.

... shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States ... to borrow Money ... to regulate Commerce ... to coin Money ...

To which branch of the government does the quotation refer?

- A. judicial
 - B. presidential
 - C. legislative
 - D. executive
2. What is one way in which the U.S. and Florida constitutions differ?
- A. The Florida governor is allowed to create new cabinet positions, but the U.S. President cannot.
 - B. The Florida Constitution requires the governor to be appointed by the legislature, in contrast to the popular election of the U.S. President.
 - C. The U.S. Constitution requires election of cabinet secretaries, but Florida's constitution does not.
 - D. Florida identifies specific cabinet positions that must be part of the executive branch, but the U.S. Constitution does not.

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance to the executive branch.

- 1. presidential succession
- 2. State of the Union Address
- 3. foreign policy
- 4. diplomacy
- 5. treaties
- 6. reprieve
- 7. pardon
- 8. commutation
- 9. secretary
- 10. attorney general
- 11. ambassadors
- 12. embassy
- 13. consul
- 14. consulate
- 15. passports
- 16. visas
- 17. Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 18. Department of Homeland Security
- 19. independent agencies
- 20. regulatory commission
- 21. bureaucracy

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 160–162)

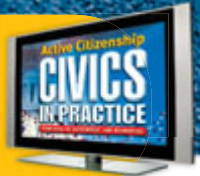
22. **a. Describe** What is the vice president's role in government?
- b. Explain** What limitation did the Twenty-second Amendment place on the terms of the presidency?

SECTION 2 (Pages 164–166)

23. **a. Recall** What is the purpose of the State of the Union Address?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question:
How can making changes in your community eventually affect larger groups of people?



- b. Contrast** What different military powers do the president and Congress have?

SECTION 3 (Pages 168–170)

- 24. a. Identify** Who are the Joint Chiefs of Staff?
b. Summarize How does the Executive Office of the President serve the president?

SECTION 4 (Pages 171–173)

- 25. a. Make Inferences** Why are the independent agencies separate from the executive departments?
b. Contrast What distinguishes a regulatory commission from other independent agencies?

Using the Internet



- 26. A Classified Ad** Through your online textbook, research the qualifications, daily job requirements, and personal qualities needed in a successful president. Then write a newspaper classified advertisement for the president of the United States. Be sure to include qualifications, a brief job description, salary, and benefits. Make it as realistic as possible by looking in a local newspaper for examples of what the ad might look like.

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Civics Skills



Evaluating Internet Resources Use the Web page shown below to answer the questions that follow.

Holt Researcher
Economy and Government > Politics & Government
Department of Justice (DOJ)

Created: 1870
Title of Chief Officer: attorney general
Functions: enforces the law in public interest, protects citizens through its efforts in crime prevention and rehabilitation of criminals, protects consumers, ensures fair competition among businesses, represents the United States in legal matters, supervises U.S. marshals and U.S. attorneys
Agencies and Comissions: Bureau of Prisons, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office for U.S. Attorneys, Office of Information and Privacy, Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Parole Commission
Related Links: <http://www.usdoj.gov/>

- 27.** Which of the following information can be found at this Web site?
- The name of the current attorney general
 - The duties of the U.S. Marshals Service
 - The name of the president who created the Department of Justice
 - The general functions of the Department of Justice
- 28.** Write two questions about the Department of Justice that you can answer reliably from this Web site.

Reading Skills



Supporting Facts and Details Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the reading selection below.

Regulatory commissions are usually established because of a perceived need. For example, in 1971 the federal government determined that the financing and running of federal elections should be closely monitored. In response to this need, Congress passed the Federal Election Campaign Act. A regulatory commission called the Federal Election Commission (FEC) was created in 1974 to enforce this act. (p. 172)

- 29.** What is the main idea of the selection?
- The federal government is worried about elections.
 - Regulatory agencies are rarely established.
 - Regulatory agencies are usually established to meet a need.
 - Elections need to be supervised.

FOCUS ON WRITING

- 30. Writing a Character Sketch** Write a paragraph describing a character that you think would be an ideal president. Be sure to describe the skills and traits a person must have to be a good president and how your character fulfills these roles.