

KEY POINTS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Executive Branch: Structure & Function

- The President and Vice President (and Cabinet) make up the executive branch
- The qualifications to be president are: be a natural born citizen, at least 35 years old, and have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years
- The key function of the executive branch is to enforce and implement laws
- The president presents to Congress a State of the Union

Executive Branch: Powers

The powers of the president fall into five broad categories:

1. **Chief Executive** – the president is in charge of executive departments and offices
2. **Commander in Chief** – commander of the military
3. **Chief Diplomat** – the president has the power to make treaties; the executive branch decides on the United States' foreign relations or dealings with other countries in order to achieve national goals
4. **Power to Nominate** – the president can nominate for high offices
5. **Power to Pardon** - the president can grant pardons