

Understanding the Executive Branch Reading Activity

| Understanding the Executive Branch Article II of the U.S Constitution Directions: Work with your partner to read each excerpt from Article II and answer the questions. | |
|--|--|
| <i>The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected...</i> | Who is in charge of the executive branch and how long is their term? |
| <i>No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.</i> | What are the qualifications to be president? |
| <i>Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector. The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.</i> | What is the process for electing the president? |

Understanding the Executive Branch Reading Activity

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."</i></p> | <p>What does this section of Article II, Section 1 explain?</p> |
| <p><i>The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.</i></p> | <p>What powers are outlined in this section? What vocabulary term(s) are related to this section?</p> |
| <p><i>He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.</i></p> | <p>According to this passage of Article II, Section 2, which positions can the president appoint? What vocabulary term(s) are related to this section?</p> |

Understanding the Executive Branch Reading Activity

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper...</i> | According to Article II, Section 3, what are the president's responsibilities regarding Congress? |
| <i>...he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.</i> | What job responsibilities are described in this statement? |
| <i>The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.</i> | How can the president or vice president be removed from office? |
| | |

Understanding the Executive Branch Reading Activity

| Understanding the Executive Branch Relationship with the Legislative and Judicial Branches Directions: Work with your partner to read each excerpt from Articles I and III and answer the questions. | |
|---|---|
| Article I, Section 2 <i>The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.</i> | What role does the House of Representatives play in impeachment? |
| Article I, Section 3 <i>The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two-thirds of the Members present. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States; but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.</i> | What role does the Senate play in impeachment? What role does the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court play in presidential impeachment? |
| Article I, Section 3 <i>The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.</i> | What role does the vice president play in the Senate? |

Understanding the Executive Branch Reading Activity

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Article I, Section 7</p> <p><i>Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall... proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law.</i></p> | <p>What role does the president play in the lawmaking process? How can the legislative branch check this power? What vocabulary term(s) are related to this section?</p> |
| <p>Article III, Section 2</p> <p><i>The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.</i></p> | <p>What authority does the judicial branch hold over presidential actions and appointments?</p> |