

Name _____

So...What does the Executive Branch do?

- It is the responsibility of the Executive Branch **to carry out all of the laws** made by the Legislative Branch (Congress).
- **The President is in charge of the Executive Branch**, therefore, s/he has to make sure that all of the laws are known about and followed.
- This is a huge job, which nobody could do all alone! That is why the President has many people that work for him/her in what are called “Executive Departments.”
- **There are currently 15 executive departments.** Thousands of people work in each executive department. Some departments have hundreds of thousands of workers. And the Department of Defense has over a million people working in it!
- Each department has a leader called the “Secretary of the (department name.)”
- **The 15 executive secretaries form a group called “the Cabinet.”** And the Cabinet meets with the President regularly to discuss the job of how to carry out the laws.
- The President gets to appoint, or pick for him/herself, the members of the Cabinet.

STEPS FOR HOW TO CARRY OUT A LAW

- Each department has certain kinds of laws that it is responsible for carrying out. When a new law is passed, the President meets with the Cabinet and hands it over to the correct department. The one which is the expert on the topic of the new law. This is so the people who work in that department can get going on the big task of notifying the public about the new law!
- The department will do many things in order to make the new law known: make telephone calls, create internet notices, print fliers, produce television commercials, send letters, visit with members of large corporations and smaller companies who are directly effected by the new law, and make signs to post in key locations. They will also set up a system for answering questions that people have about the new law.
- Of course police departments, game wardens, and other law enforcement agencies are told about the new law and trained in how to detect for it being broken.
- Once the department has done all of that work, the law goes into effect...it has been carried out. Now it is the job of the citizens to obey it. If they do not, the judicial branch gets to decide the punishment.

That is how the executive branch does its job of executing, or carrying out, the law.

The 15 Executive Departments

Department of State: Is in charge of dealing with the U.S.A.'s relations with foreign countries, issues passports to U.S. citizens (30,000 employees, \$35 billion budget)

Department of Transportation: Takes care of issues related to roads, airports, trains, etc. (55,000 employees, \$70 billion budget)

Department of Housing and Urban Development: Assists citizens in finding a place to live and helps cities plan for housing needs (9,000 employees, \$40 billion budget)

Department of Defense: Provides protection to the nation and responds to threats from other countries (1.3 million active duty, 700,000 civilian employees, 1.1 million National Guard, \$523 billion budget)

Department of Veteran's Affairs: Gives help, insurance and new job training, to retired soldiers and their families (235,000 employees, \$90 billion budget)

Department of Labor: Helps employees (workers) to know their rights for safety, fair pay, and good working conditions (15,000 employees, \$50 billion budget)

Department of Agriculture: Helps farmers and ranchers who produce food, regulates food safety (100,000+ employees, \$95 billion budget)

Department of the Interior: Oversees the national park system and protects natural places in the country (70,000 employees, 200,000 volunteers, \$16 billion budget)

Department of Health and Human Services: Carries out laws that encourage and protect healthy bodies and minds for our citizens (65,000 employees, \$700 billion budget)

Department of Homeland Security: Protects the country from terrorism, executes immigration laws, secures the borders, warns of possible threats, prepares for emergencies - including natural disasters (216,000 employees, \$65 billion budget)

Department of Energy: Is concerned with electricity, oil, solar, wind, water and other sources of power (100,000+ employees, \$23 billion budget)

Department of Treasury: Coins and prints money and deals with tax collection and banking (100,000+ employees, \$13 billion budget)

Department of Education: Is in charge of public school rules and regulations and federal funding for schools (4,200 employees, \$68.6 billion budget)

Department of Justice: Oversees the federal court system. Helps defend people's rights and protect people from crime; helps punish criminals (115,000 employees, \$25 billion budget)

Department of Commerce: Deals with trade issues and helps businesses to follow the laws that make buying and selling fair to everyone (38,000 employees, \$6.5 billion budget)