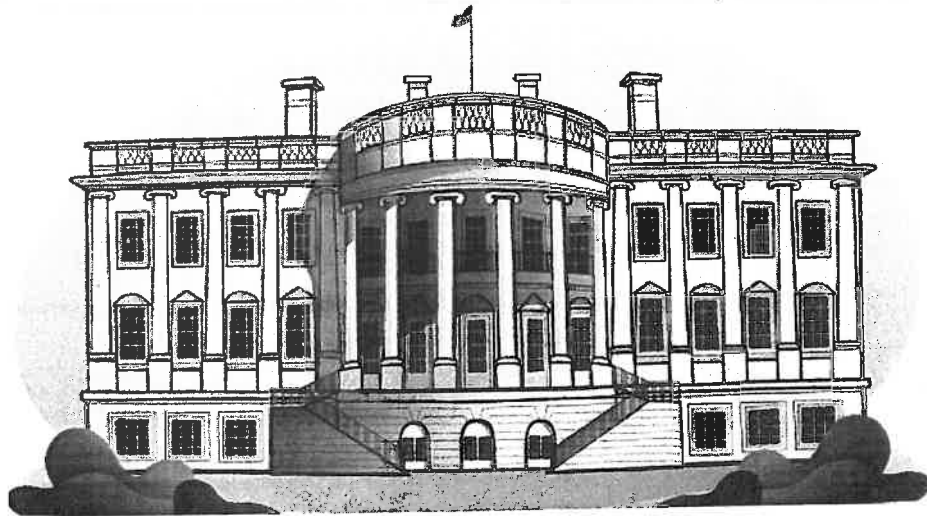
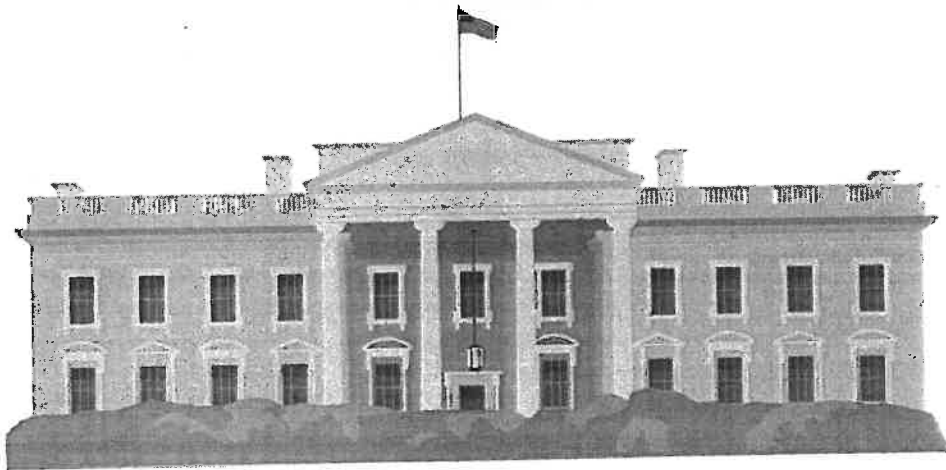


U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 2

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



THE PRESIDENT AND THE CABINET WORK IN
THE WHITE HOUSE.

Article 2: The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch

Section 1. The President and Vice-President

Clause 1. Term of Office

- * Executive power—power to carry out laws—is granted to the President, chief of the executive branch. The President serves a four-year term, as does the Vice-President.

Clause 2. The Electoral College

- * The people do not elect the President or Vice-President directly. Instead, both are chosen by a group of electors known as the electoral college. Each state legislature decides how electors are to be chosen in that state. Today electors are chosen by the voters. The number of electors from a state is equal to the number of senators and representatives from that state.

Clause 3. Electing a President

This clause describes the framers' original plan for electing a President and Vice-President. After the election of 1800 showed its weaknesses, the method was changed by the Twelfth Amendment. (See page R62 for more details.)

Clause 4. Time of Elections

Congress sets the date for choosing electors, as well as the date for their voting. That date must be the same throughout the country.

Today Presidential elections take place every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Electoral votes are cast on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December.

Clause 5. Qualifications

Any American can be President who:

- is at least 35 years old
- is a natural born American citizen
- has lived in the U.S. for 14 years

* Clause 6. Presidential Succession

This clause says that Congress can decide who should succeed, or replace, a President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office. In 1886 Congress said the line of succession would go from the Vice-President to members of the cabinet. In 1947 Congress changed it to go from the Vice-President to Speaker of the House, then to the president pro tempore of the Senate, and then to the cabinet. Amendment 25, ratified in 1967, prevents a long vacancy in the office of Vice-President. It also sets up procedures in case the President is disabled.

Clause 7. Presidential Salary *

The President gets paid like any other federal employee. That salary cannot be raised or lowered during a President's term in office. While in office, the President cannot receive any other salary from the U.S. government or a state government.

* Clause 8. The Oath of Office

Before taking office, the President must take an oath promising to carry out the duties of the Presidency and to preserve and protect the Constitution.

Section 2. Presidential Powers

Clause 1. Military and Executive Powers

As head of the executive branch, the President has the power to:

- act as commander in chief of all the armed forces
- * • manage the federal bureaucracy
- * • grant a reprieve, or delay of punishment, to a person convicted of a federal crime
- * • grant a pardon, or excuse from punishment, to someone involved in a federal crime, except in impeachment cases

* Clause 2. Treaties and Appointments

The President also has the power to:

- * • make treaties with foreign nations, with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate
- * • appoint Supreme Court justices, with the approval of a majority of the Senate
- * • appoint ambassadors and other important executive branch officials, with the approval of a majority of the Senate

Clause 3. Other Appointments

When the Senate is not in session, the President may make temporary appointments.

Section 3. The President's Duties

This section outlines the President's legislative duties. The President shall:

- * • Address Congress regularly on the nation's problems and recommend needed laws. This message is called the State of the Union Address.
- Call Congress into special session in times of national emergency.
- Adjourn Congress if needed.

The President shall also:

- * • Receive ambassadors from other countries. This duty puts the President in charge of the nation's foreign policy.
- * • Make sure the laws passed by Congress are "faithfully executed," or enforced.

Section 4. Impeachment

The President, Vice-President, and other federal officials including department heads and federal judges can be removed from office by the impeachment process.

* See vocabulary list to help you



Executive Branch Vocabulary

1. _____ – a speech (The President gives the “State of the Union Address” each year in January.)
2. _____ – people who represent their nation and often go to *foreign* countries in order to learn about the foreign place and culture. *foreign* - not in your country

(Living in the foreign country helps the ambassador to understand the culture and politics of the nation so that he/she can better represent the U.S.A. when it comes time to make treaties or arrange special events. Ambassadors would also help you if you had trouble while traveling in a foreign country. You would go the “embassy” where the ambassador works and ask for help. Since they are from your country and understand the country where you are visiting, they will know what kind of help you need.)

3. _____ - to pick someone for a position or job. The person does not apply for the job; instead they are chosen for it.
4. _____ - the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Special Forces
5. _____ – a system of bureaus (government groups) and departments that help the President do the job of executing the laws
6. _____ _____ – a group of people who cast the votes for the President based on which candidate gets the most votes (popular vote) in their state...Each state gets the number of votes that equals the number of senators and representatives they have.

7. _____ (as in to _____ the law) – to enforce, to make sure that it happens, to carry out, to inform everyone and make it possible for them to follow
8. _____ - the process used by the Congress to bring legal charges against the President to determine if s/he should be removed from office
9. _____ – have control of, make decisions, hire/fire employees, take responsibility if things go wrong and if things go well
10. _____ - a promise
11. _____ – excused from punishment, let go without any further consequences
12. _____ – rules that are agreed on and followed so that people can work together successfully
13. _____ – a delay in punishment
14. _____ - the agreed upon pay that a person receives for the job... With a salary, you are not paid by the hour. You have to put in as many hours as it takes to get the job done. No matter how many or less hours you work, you get the salary agreed on.
15. _____ – the order in which the President will be replaced if s/he leaves office, i.e. dies, resigns, or is removed.
16. _____ – agreements made with other countries, sometimes about trade or human rights or promises to help one another with defense