Executive Branch Notes

The President and Vice President

Qualifications for President

- At least 35 years old
- Native-born American citizen
- Resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

- Presidents are elected every 4 years.
- They are elected by an indirect method called the **Electoral College**
- The Electoral College is a “**winner-take-all**” system.
- A candidate must get at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes to become president.

Term of Office

- Presidents serve four-year terms.
- The 22nd Amendment limits each president to 2 elected terms in office or a maximum of 10 years if he/she began during another president’s term.

The Vice President

- Elected with the president through the **Electoral College** system
- Qualification for the office are the same as those for the presidency
- Presides over the **Senate** and votes in case of a **tie**
- If the president **dies**, is removed from office, becomes seriously **ill**, or **resigns**, the V.P. becomes president.

Presidential Succession

- Presidential Succession Act of 1947 indicates the line of succession after the V.P.
- If both the President and the V.P. die or leave office, the **Speaker** of the **House** becomes president.
- The 25th Amendment says that if the president dies or leaves office, the V.P. becomes president and gets to choose another V.P. (Both the **Senate** and the **House** of Reps. must approve.)
The President’s Job

Constitutional Powers

- The Constitution gives the president the power to
  - Veto ________ bills passed in Congress
  - Call Congress into ________ session
  - Serve as Commander-in-Chief of the ________ armed forces
  - Receive leaders and other officials of ________ foreign countries
  - Make ________ treaties with other countries (with ________ Senate approval)
  - Appoint heads of executive ________ agencies, federal court ________ judges, ambassadors, and other top government officials (with Senate approval)
  - Pardon or reduce the penalties against people convicted of federal ________ crimes

- The Constitution requires the president to give Congress information about the “______ State of the ________ Union ________.”
  - He gives a speech to discuss the most important issues facing the nation
  - He proposes new ________ legislation ________ he would like to see

Powers of the President

- Complete the worksheet, “The Many Hats of the President.”

Making Foreign Policy

Goals of American foreign policy

1. ________ National security ________ – the ability to keep the country safe from attack or harm
2. ________ International trade ________
3. Promoting ________ world ________ peace
4. Promoting ________ democracy ________ around the world – which helps protect our own national security

Roles of Congress and the president in foreign policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Foreign Policy</th>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approving ________ treaties</td>
<td>Signing ________ treaties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>________ approving ________ appointments</td>
<td>Making executive ________ agreements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting aside money for foreign ________ aid ________</td>
<td>Appointing ________ ambassadors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing ________ tariffs ________</td>
<td>Making trade ________ agreements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using the ________ military ________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presidential Advisors and Executive Agencies

The Cabinet

- A group of presidential **advisors** that includes the heads of top-level executive departments.
- The head of the Department of Justice is called the **attorney general**.
- All of the other department heads are called **secretaries**.
- Cabinet members advise the president on issues related to their department.
- The cabinet meets whenever the president decides it’s necessary.

The Federal Bureaucracy

**independent agencies** – departments of the federal government that perform specialized duties

**regulatory group** – type of independent agency that has the power to make rules and bring violators to court

**bureaucracy** – the departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government