Unit 4

The Executive Branch

What makes a good President?

Chapter 13
Essential Question
Does the current electoral process result in the best candidates for President?

Chapter 14
Essential Question
How much power should the President have?

Chapter 15
Essential Question
Is the bureaucracy essential to good government?

Chapter 16
Essential Question
How should the federal budget reflect Americans’ priorities?

Chapter 17
Essential Question
How should the United States interact with other countries?
A. What qualities must a President have? Review the list of leadership qualities. Then check the top five most important.

- thoughtful
- outgoing
- charming
- trustworthy
- decisive
- intelligent
- tough
- open minded
- cooperative
- modest
- kind
- consistent
- inspiring
- experienced
- honest
- politically astute
- brave
- decent
- well-informed
- independent
- diplomatic
- farsighted
- other ______________

B. Choose a past or current President. What five categories from the list above best describe this President? Explain your choice.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Warmup

How much power should the President have?

A. What does the word power mean to you? Fill in the concept web below to clarify your thinking. Then circle any of the powers you listed that you think a U.S. President should have.

B. Where would you place an ideal U.S. President on a scale of power? Explain your answer.
CHAPTER 14  How much power should the President have?  

Name: ________________________________

Exploration

1. Article II, Growth of Presidential Power

Find Out

A. Read Article II of the Constitution. Then make a list of the most important powers that the Constitution gives to the President.

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________

B. The power of the President has greatly increased since the Constitution was written. Find two examples of increases in the power of the President in your print or online textbook or other sources. Then, based on your reading of the Constitution and your own observations, add two more examples.

Example ____________________________________________
Example ____________________________________________
Example ____________________________________________
Example ____________________________________________

C. Review the reasons for the growth of presidential power and list them below. Then circle the most important reason and explain your choice.

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 14  How much power should the President have?  

Name: ______________________________

What Do You Think?

D. Has the power of the President grown too much? Choose an example from the news or from history where people disagree about whether the President overstepped his or her authority. Briefly explain how the President used his or her power. Then comment on whether the amount of power that the President had was appropriate for the circumstances. (Hint: Issues of presidential authority often arise in times of war or other national crisis.)

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

II. Executive Powers

Find Out

A. Review the President’s executive powers. Then define them and give an example of each.

Ordinance Power
Definition _______________________________________________________________
Example __________________________________________________________________

Appointment Power
Definition _______________________________________________________________
Example __________________________________________________________________

Removal Power
Definition _______________________________________________________________
Example __________________________________________________________________

What Do You Think?

B. Which of the powers listed above is the most important? Explain.

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 14  How much power should the President have?  

Name: ______________________________

Find Out  

C. Review the case of *U.S. v. Nixon* and the Supreme Court’s decision in the case. Under what conditions should a President be allowed to claim executive privilege? Explain.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

III. Executive, Diplomatic, Military, and Legislative Powers

Find Out  

A. Review the roles of the President and his or her powers. Then fill in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roles of the President</th>
<th>Presidential Powers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
<td><em>power to execute and enforce federal laws</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Diplomat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commander in Chief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Legislator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Do You Think?  

B. Of the powers listed above, which is the most essential? Why?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

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Find Out

C. The Framers placed checks on the President’s power. Other limits have developed over time. Using your online or print textbook and your knowledge of government, briefly describe each limit and its effect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>an unpopular President lacks influence; the public can vote the President out of office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Opinion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Checks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Checks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucracy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Do You Think?

D. Return to the scale of power that you filled in at the beginning of the lesson. With the additional information you have gathered, would you change your rating of where you would place an ideal President on the scale? Explain.  

_________________________________________________________________  
_________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 14  How much power should the President have?  

Apply What You’ve Learned Activity

What do people in your community think about the power of the President? Use this worksheet to answer the Apply What You’ve Learned questions in your print or online textbook. Interview at least 10 voters (Independent, Republican, and Democratic) in your community. Use the table below to summarize the responses you receive.

| Over the past decade, do you think the President overstepped his authority? If so, when? |
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|

| Over the past decade, do you think the President needed more authority? If so, when? |
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|

| Over your lifetime, has the power of the President changed? How? |
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|
|_____________________________________________________________________________________|

A. With which opinions do you most agree or disagree? Explain.
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

B. Did your opinions change as a result of the interviews you conducted? Explain.
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

C. Give two examples of events or situations that could change your opinion.
1. _________________________________________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 14  How much power should the President have?  Name: ____________________________

Essay

How much power should the President have?

In 1789, the new United States government began an experiment in constitutional democracy—with a President at its helm. They looked to the future full of hope and fear. As you read the quotations about the presidency below, consider the concerns of the Framers and the reasons for their fear.

The first man at the helm will be a good one. Nobody knows what sort may come afterwards . . . the executive will be increasing here, as elsewhere, till it ends in monarchy.

— Benjamin Franklin

Make him too weak—the legislature will usurp his power. Make him too strong—he will usurp the legislature.

— Gouverneur Morris

What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, How much power should the President have? Consider your thoughts on the quotations above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have done in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.

Don’t Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 4 Essential Question: What makes a good President?