

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH***Qualifications for President***

(See Article II, Section 1)

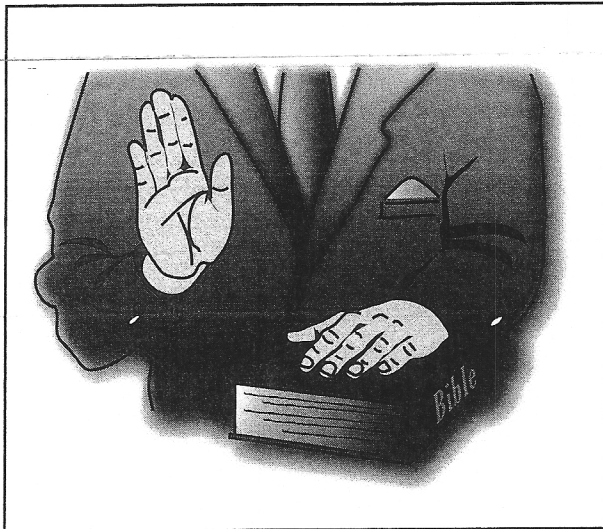
Just as there were requirements to be a representative or a senator, the Constitution set forth certain requirements to be the President of the United States.

In order to be president, a person must be a natural-born citizen of the United States—not an immigrant. He or she must be at least 35 years old and have been a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.

In the event that the president dies or is unfit to continue as president, there is a detailed line of succession. The vice president assumes the power of the presidency first; if he is unable, then the speaker of the House of Representatives takes over. After him is the president pro tempore of the Senate, and then the various Cabinet department heads are in line for succession in order of the establishment of the departments, beginning with the secretary of state. The 25th Amendment outlines what is done when the president dies or is disabled.

The salary of the president is set by the Congress and does not change during the president's term of office. Currently the salary is \$400,000.

The president and vice president are elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. They are sworn in on Inauguration Day, January 20. Usually, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the person who administers the oath of office to the president at the ceremony. The oath of office is as follows:



"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."

"So help me God" is usually added by the presidents.

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Qualifications for President **Challenges**

1. What three requirements must be met in order to be President of the United States?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

2. In the proper order of succession, who will take over in the event the president dies? List four people.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

3. What is the salary of the president? _____

4. When is a president elected? _____

When is a president inaugurated? _____

Why do you suppose there is a gap of time? _____

5. Who usually administers the oath of office to the president? _____

6. If you were the President of the United States, what do you think would be the hardest part of the job? Why? _____

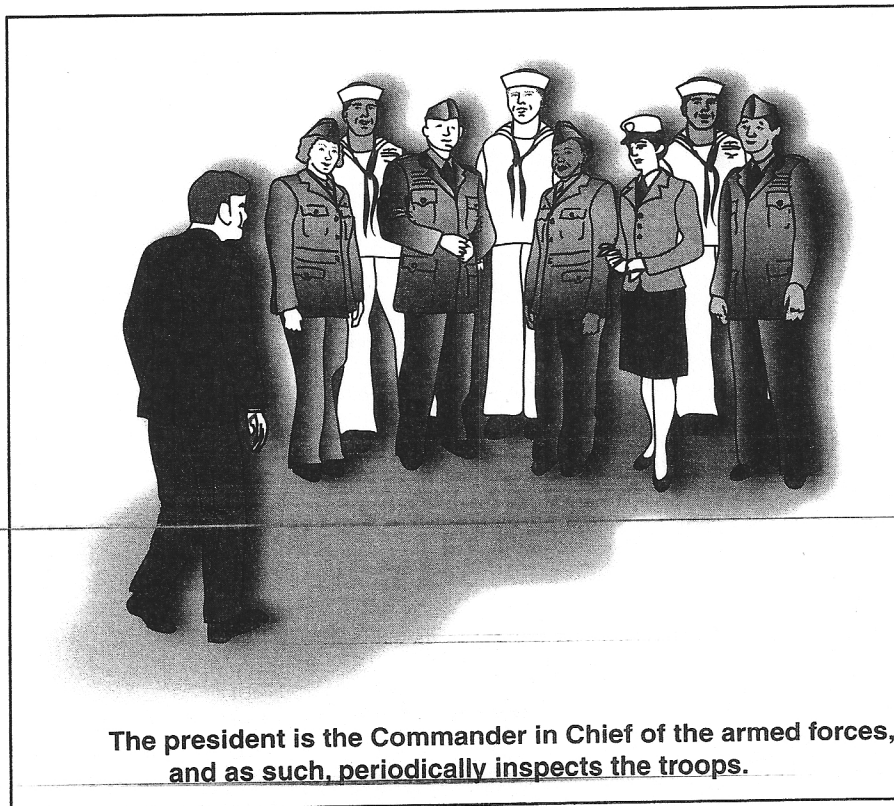
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Powers and Duties of the President

(See Article II, Section 2.3)

The job of the president is not an easy one. The Constitution spells out many different responsibilities, powers, and duties of the president and the executive branch. The powers of the president can be put into five categories: Commander in Chief, Chief Executive, Chief of State, Chief Legislator, and Chief of Party.

First, the president is the Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces. He is the number-one military person in the United States. All decisions regarding the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines are the responsibility of the president. He can also call the National Guard (or state militias) from the individual states into the service of the United States.



The president is the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, and as such, periodically inspects the troops.

Secondly, the president is the Chief Executive. To run a country the size of the United States, you need many people doing many things. It is the job of the president as Chief Executive to make sure all of his cabinet, staff, and other employees are doing their jobs correctly.

The president is also the Chief of State. This responsibility was given to the president by the Constitution so that the United States would have one person in charge of all foreign relations. The president represents the United States when he travels to other countries to meet with foreign leaders. The

president also greets and hosts other foreign dignitaries when they visit the United States. The president may also make treaties with other countries, but the Senate must ratify, or approve, the treaty by a two-thirds vote.

Another duty of the president is that of Chief Legislator. We saw in Article 1 how the president had the power to veto laws. The Constitution gives the president the power to approve or disapprove of the laws that Congress is making. He can also suggest that certain laws be made by working with his supporters in the House or the Senate.

Finally, the president is also the Chief of Party. When he is elected president, he becomes the head of his political party, Republican or Democratic. He makes decisions regarding the make-up of his individual political party.

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Powers and Duties of the President **Challenges**

1. What are the five categories that the powers of the president can be put into?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
2. What is the president's responsibility to the United States military?
 - a) What is his title, and b) what can he do?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
3. What is the president's responsibility to the business aspect of the United States government? a) What is his title, and b) what can he do?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
4. What is the president's responsibility to the aspect of foreign relations?
 - a) What is his title, and b) what can he do?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
5. What is the president's responsibility to approve, disapprove, or suggest laws?
 - a) What is his title, and b) what can he do?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
6. What is the president's responsibility to his political party?
 - a) What is his title, and b) what can he do?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____