

The Executive Branch

A Reading A-Z Level N Leveled Book
Word Count: 566

Connections

Writing

Would you like to become president of the United States? Write about why or why not using details from the book to support your answer.

Social Studies and Art

Choose a president to learn more about. Design a poster that includes information about the president's life and time in office.

LEVELED BOOK • N

The Executive Branch



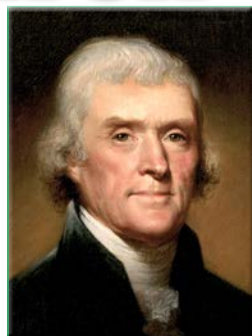
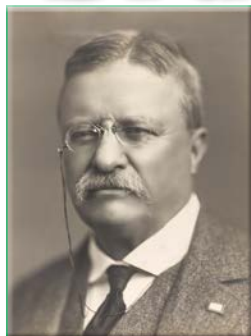
Reading A-Z

Visit www.readinga-z.com
for thousands of books and materials.

Written by Nigel Pepperhouse

www.readinga-z.com

The Executive Branch



Written by Nigel Pepperhouse

www.readinga-z.com

Focus Question

Who leads the executive branch, and what are the jobs of this branch of government?

Words to Know

approve
cabinet
Constitution

election
executive
veto

Cover: In 1800, John Adams became the first president to live in the White House. The president lives *and* works there.

Page 1: Theodore Roosevelt (top left); Thomas Jefferson (top right); Harry Truman (bottom left); Barack Obama (bottom right)

Page 3: Mount Rushmore shows presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Their faces are each about 60 feet (18 m) tall.

Photo Credits:

Front cover, back cover: © Caroline Purser/Photographer's Choice/Getty Images; back cover (inset): © iStock.com/Soubrette; title page (top left): courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division [LC-DIG-ppmsca-35640]; title page (top right): © GraphicaArtis/Archive Photos/Getty Images; title page (bottom left): © Bettmann/Getty Images; title page (bottom right): courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division [LC-DIG-pbbd-00358]; page 3: © iStock.com/SL_Photography; page 4: © Photo12/UIIG/Getty Images; page 6: © Hulton Archive/Archive Photos/Getty Images; page 7: © Charles del Vecchio/The Washington Post/Getty Images; page 8: © White House/ZUMA Press/Newscom; page 9 (top): © iStock.com/ImagineGolf; page 9 (bottom): © iStock.com/GaryKavanagh; page 10: © Shutterstock; page 11: © iStock.com/moose henderson; page 12: © AP Images; page 13: © iStock.com/FrozenShutter; page 15: © Lawrence Jackson/AP Images

The Executive Branch
Level N Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Nigel Pepperhouse

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL N

Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
What Is the Executive Branch? ...	5
What the Executive Branch Does	8
Conclusion	15
Glossary	16



George Washington was the first president of the United States.

Introduction

Every day for more than 225 years, an American president has been on the job. Every day of every year, that job is important.

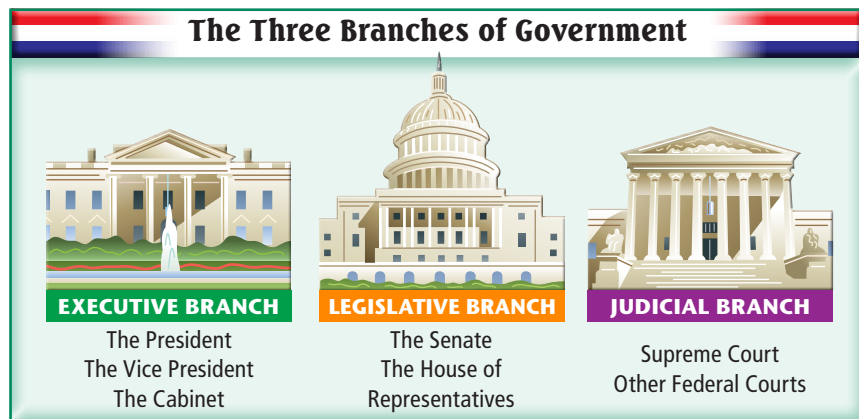
The president is the most powerful person in the United States. The president is the **executive** branch at work.

What Is the Executive Branch?

In 1788, American leaders set up a system of laws called the **Constitution** to help rule the young country. That system is still used today.

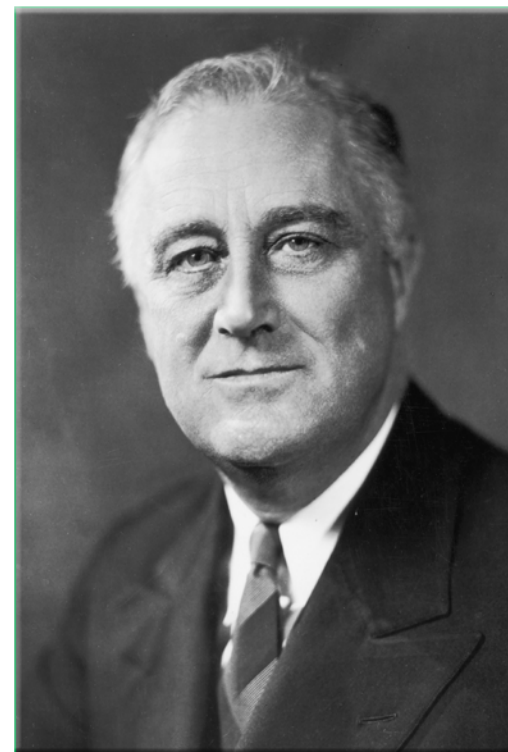
It splits the U.S. government into three branches, or parts.

The executive branch is led by the president. The legislative branch makes laws and is the voice of the American people. The judicial branch watches over the U.S. justice system through its system of courts.



Sometimes the branches work together. At other times, they work against each other.

The U.S. system gives the president many powers. However, the president is not a king. People vote for him or her. Every four years, there is a new **election**. A person can be president two times, but no more than that.

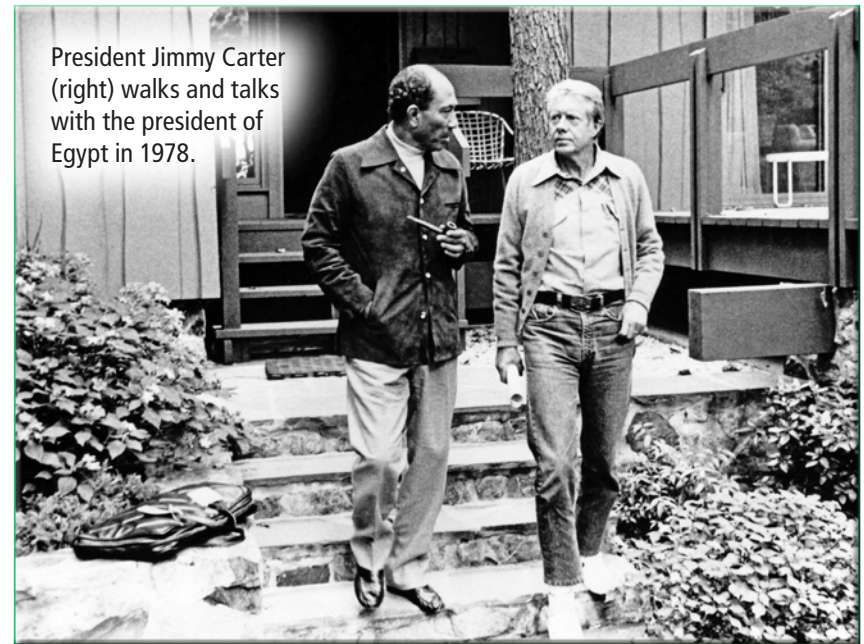


President Franklin Delano Roosevelt served four terms, from 1933 to 1945. After he died in 1945, the legislative branch changed the limit to two terms.

The president must be thirty-five or older. He or she must have been born in the United States. He or she must have also lived in the United States for fourteen years or more.



President John F. Kennedy and his daughter, Caroline, have breakfast together in 1961. At age forty-three, he became the youngest U.S. president.



President Jimmy Carter (right) walks and talks with the president of Egypt in 1978.

What the Executive Branch Does

The president has many powers. For example, the president can send U.S. troops anywhere in the world.

The president also meets with other leaders to work on all sorts of problems. Some are leaders from other parts of the world. Some are U.S. leaders. Many are members of the president's **cabinet**.

The cabinet includes fifteen departments, and each department helps run the country. Take the Department of Energy. It makes sure the whole country has enough power to keep moving, now and in the years to come.



The Department of Energy helps decide what sorts of energy Americans use. Oil pumps (top) produce oil for cars and heat. Solar panels (bottom) turn the Sun's energy into electricity.



Vice President Gerald Ford (left) replaces Richard Nixon as president in 1974.

The cabinet also includes the vice president. He or she is expected to take over if the president cannot continue. The vice president is elected at the same time as the president.

Other cabinet members are chosen by the president. The president can also remove cabinet members at any time.

The president also plays a part in making laws. Those laws deal with many things. One law might be about how to run schools. A second law might be about saving animals or land. A third law might be about rules that banks must follow.

No matter what the law is about, it starts as an idea. Once the idea is written down, it's called a *bill*.



In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a law to protect certain wild animals, such as the bald eagle. So far, the law has saved more than two hundred kinds of animals.

After the legislative branch passes a bill, the bill is sent to the president. If the president signs the bill, it becomes law. The president may also **veto** a bill if he or she does not agree with it. In this case, the bill does not become law unless two-thirds of the legislative branch votes for it. This rarely happens.

The president plays a part in the judicial branch, too. That's because the president picks judges. Those judges, in turn, shape U.S. law. However, the legislative branch must **approve** those judges first.

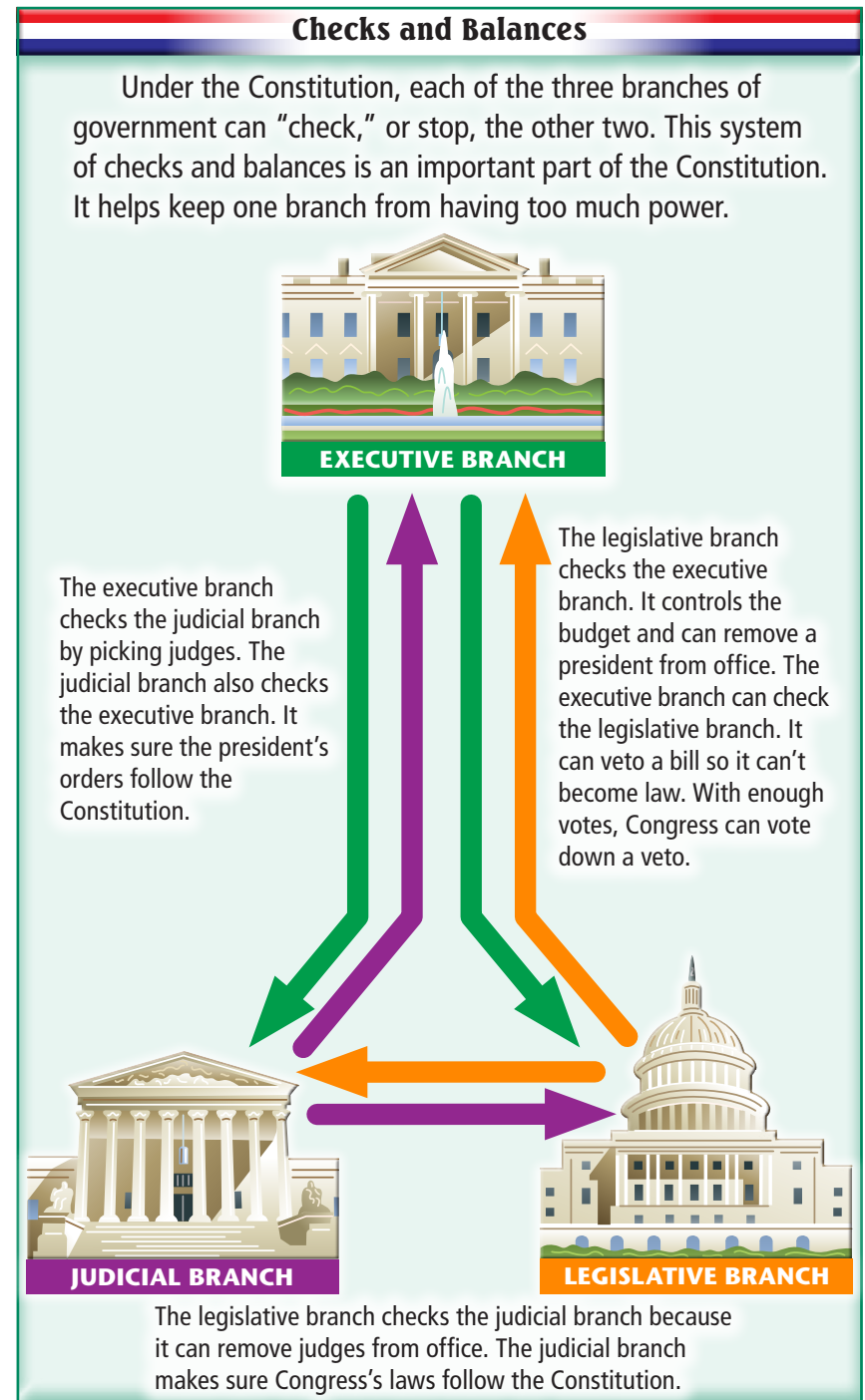
President Ronald Reagan picked Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981 to be the first woman on the Supreme Court. It is the highest court in the judicial branch.





In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote an order that freed many slaves. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors him.

The executive branch does not make laws. However, sometimes the president can write orders, called *executive actions*, that tell the government what to do. Executive actions can change Americans' lives.





President George W. Bush shakes hands with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in 2007. The Speaker is the most powerful member of the House of Representatives.

Conclusion

The president and the cabinet make important choices every day. Those choices affect every American. They are just one branch, though. It takes all three branches for the U.S. system to work. After so many years, it still does.

Glossary

approve (<i>v.</i>)	to officially agree to (p. 12)
cabinet (<i>n.</i>)	a group of advisers to a president or other leader of a country (p. 8)
Constitution (<i>n.</i>)	the set of written rules and ideas upon which United States laws are based (p. 5)
election (<i>n.</i>)	the act of choosing a person for government office by voting (p. 6)
executive (<i>adj.</i>)	of or relating to the branch of government that leads a nation and carries out the laws of the land (p. 4)
veto (<i>v.</i>)	to refuse to approve a bill so it does not become a law (p. 12)