

The President

TOPIC SUMMARY

The president of the United States is an extremely powerful person. Most of the powers and roles of the president are defined by the Constitution. Still others have evolved as the needs of a growing nation have changed. The most important leadership trait of a president is the strong ability to communicate.

Classifying Presidential Powers

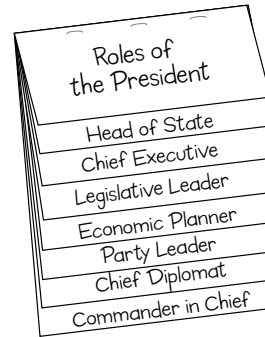
| Presidential Powers | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Constitutional Powers | |
| Inherent Powers | |
| Checks and Balances on Power | |

Folded Chart

Have students make a Folded Chart to classify the various powers of the president, and the limits on presidential power. Students should create a chart with three categories. Have students label the left side of the chart *Constitutional Powers*, *Informal Sources of Power*, and *Limits on Presidential Power*. Then, using information from the text, students should write a definition of each type of power, or list examples of each, in their appropriate categories.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper.

Explaining the Roles of the President

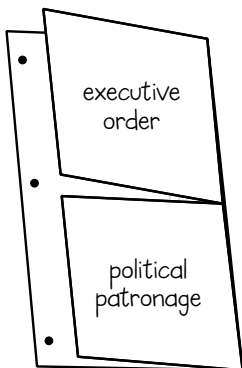


Layered Book

The president has seven key duties. Have students create a Layered Book to explain each of the president's roles. Students should title their book, "Roles of the President." Then, students should label the tabs with one of the following: *Head of State*, *Chief Executive*, *Chief Legislator*, *Economic Planner*, *Party Leader*, *Chief Diplomat*, and *Commander in Chief*. Inside, students should explain the duties required and note whether this duty is mandated by the Constitution or has evolved over time.

Materials Needed: four sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, stapler or glue.

Researching Key Terms



Two-Tab Book

Have students create a Two-Tab Book for the key terms from this section. Students should conduct research to define and give examples, other than those in the text, of the terms *executive order* and *political patronage* as they relate to leadership in government. Students can find Internet encyclopedia articles to enrich their understanding of these concepts.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper, scissors.