Chapter Links

Section 1
“The Roles of the President”

Section 2
“The Organization of the Executive Branch”

Section 3
“Presidents and Power”
Main Idea:
The President of the United States is a very powerful person who plays many roles in the government. However, the President's power is deliberately limited by the Constitution.

Key Terms:
- Executive Branch
- Foreign Policy
- Ambassadors
- Executive Agreements
- Domestic Policy
Creating the Office of President

• Executive Branch
  – The branch of government responsible for executing or carrying out, the law.

• Term of Office
  – Four years per term; two term maximum

• Limited Power
  – Checks and balances

• Qualifications
  – 35 years of age; natural born citizen; 14 year of residency
A Leader With Many Roles

• Chief Executive
• Commander in Chief of Armed Forces
• Chief Diplomat
  – Sets foreign policy and appoints ambassadors
  – Makes executive agreements with other countries
• Legislative Leader
  – Sets domestic policy; plans for dealing with national problems.
Roles Created by Tradition

• Party Leader
  – Typically the Democratic or Republican party

• Head of State
  – The President is expected to speak for the whole nation on values and the goals of the American people.
Main Idea:
The executive branch of the government includes the President, the White House staff, the Vice President, the executive departments, and the independent agencies.

Key Terms:
- Bureaucracy
- Administration
- Cabinet
The Executive Office of the President

- **Bureaucracy**
  - An organization of government departments, agencies, and offices.

- **Administration**
  - A team of executive branch officials

- **The White House Staff**
  - Presidents most trusted advisers and assistants

- **The Vice President**
  - Presides over the senate; becomes president if the president dies or falls ill.
## The Executive Departments

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The Independent Agencies

• Executive Agencies
  – Under direct control of the President
    • Examples: NASA, EPA.

• Regulatory Commissions
  – Formed by congress, these twelve commissions make and carry out rules for business and economic activity
    • Example: FCC
The Civil Service System

• In 1883, Congress set up a system by which most government employees (called “servants”) are hired on the basis of merit and not political connection
  – Civil Service Exams created
  – Persons with the highest scores on the exam were hired
Section Outline:

I. Freedom to Take Action
II. Seeking a Balance
III. Presidential Power

Main Idea:

The power of the President has expanded since George Washington’s time. The President’s power is still balanced by the other two branches of the government.

Key Terms:

• Treaties
• Executive Privilege
Freedom to Take Action

- **Treaties**
  - Formal agreements between nations

- **Executive Privilege**
  - The right to keep some information secret from the Congress of the Courts.
Presidential Power

• The Louisiana Purchase 1803
  – French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte offered President Thomas Jefferson of the United States the “Louisiana Territory” for the bargain price of $15 million.
  • The Constitution did not say whether the President had the power to buy territory
  • President Jefferson and his Secretary of State James Madison decided since the President had the power to make treaties, he could make a treaty purchasing the land.
Presidential Power (cont.)

- Harry Truman and the Steel Mills
  - Truman unsuccessfully tried to seize control of American steel mills to prevent a wartime strike.

- Nixon and Watergate
  - Nixon unsuccessfully applied executive privilege to the a special Senate committee and House Judiciary committee investigating an illegal burglary of the Democratic party offices at the Watergate Hotel
  - Nixon, severely implicated, resigned 8/9/1974