Unit Plan: Executive Branch

Length of time:

Five Classes

Essential Question(s):

What is the role of the Executive Branch in the Government of the United States of America?

Guiding Questions:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of the President?
- How did the Presidency change over time?
- What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Chief Executive?
- What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Commander in Chief?
- What is the difference between a “war” and a “conflict”?
- What skills are essential to the President while acting as the nation’s Chief Diplomat?
- What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Ceremonial Head of State?
- What is the function of the Presidential Cabinet, how has that changed over time?
- How does the Constitution limit the powers of the President?
- What would you do in the President’s shoes?

Key Words

Article II

Executive, Executive Branch

Chief Executive

Commander in Chief

Chief Diplomat

Ceremonial Head of State

Presidential Cabinet

bureaucracy (executive agency)

Cabinet Secretary

Checks and Balances

fiscal policy

Articles of Confederation

Ancillary Materials

Primary Source Documents:
Constitution of the United States
Executive Order 13190
Markup Version of E.O. 13190
President Clinton’s Statement on Iraqi Missile Strikes
President Clinton’s Statement on Iraqi Missile Strikes (Transcript)
FDR’s Address December 8th, 1941
Primary sources found on the Powers of the Presidency

Media:
Powers of the Presidency
What is an Executive Order? American Bar Association
War Powers: Library of Congress (Overview Section)
START III Framework at a Glance
President Clinton’s Trips Abroad
List of Foreign Dignitary Visits to the United States
Google Maps

Literature or reading selections:
Not Applicable

Textbook pages and/or sections:
Not Applicable

Assessment Activities

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Structure of Unit – Individual Lessons

Lesson 1 topic: Article II: Powers of the Presidency
GQ: What are the roles and responsibilities of the President? How did the Presidency change over time?
Techniques: Jigsaw Method

Lesson 2 topic: Chief Executive
GQ: What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Chief Executive?
Techniques: Group work

Lesson 3 topic: Commander in Chief
GQ: What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Commander in Chief? What is the difference between a “war” and a “conflict”?
Techniques: Short answer questions, group guided discussion

Lesson 4 topic: Chief Diplomat
GQ: What skills are essential to the President while acting as the nation’s Chief Diplomat?
Techniques: Mock negotiations

Lesson 5 topic: Ceremonial Head of State
GQ: What duties/powers are tied to the President's role as Ceremonial Head of State?
Techniques: Group work, 1-1 technology