

# 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*

*Presidential Cabinet*

*Executive, Executive Branch*

*bureaucracy (executive agency)*

*Chief Executive*

*Cabinet Secretary*

*Commander in Chief*

*Checks and Balances*

*Chief Diplomat*

*fiscal policy*

*Ceremonial Head of State*

*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 Portal](#)

*Media:*

[Powers of the Presidency Portal](#)

[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

| <b>Authentic Assessments</b>                              | <b>Traditional Assessments</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Jigsaw Lesson Worksheet                                   | <a href="#">Research Paper</a> |
| Write an Executive Order                                  |                                |
| Short Essay Questions                                     |                                |
| Mock Negotiations<br>and<br>Homework short essay question |                                |
| Digital Presentation                                      |                                |
| Short Essay Questions                                     |                                |
| Compose Talking Points                                    |                                |
| Workshop  |                                |

## **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 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