Name: _____

The Executive Branch

The President of the United States represents the entire country. The President is considered the Head of Government. However, the President is also only the leader of one of three branches of government: the executive branch.

To execute means to carry out. *To enforce* is to make sure something is done or followed. Other branches of government make the laws (legislative branch) and decide what the laws mean (judicial branch). The executive branch executes and enforces those laws.

The executive branch includes more people and places than the President and the White [illegible] all carry out the law.

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The [illegible] made up of advisors to the President. Every Cabinet member is in charge of one of 15 departments. Each department handles different things, like the Department of Education or the Department of Defense. Cabinet members are called "Secretaries," like the Secretary of Education—except for the head of the Department of Justice, who is called the Attorney General. (*Attorney* is another word for *lawyer*.)

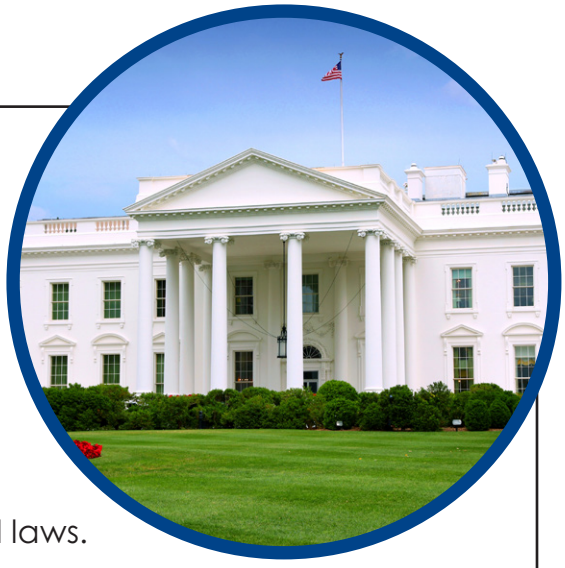
Most federal agencies, or groups, fit within a department. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (commonly known as the FBI) is part of the Department of Justice. Others, like the United States Postal Service who deliver our mail, don't. They are still part of the executive branch.

The President is also the Commander in Chief. The Commander in Chief leads the military. When you add everyone together, more than four million people make up the executive branch. They all answer to the President.

The President has other important executive jobs too. One is meeting with foreign officials, or leaders from other countries, as the Head of State. Another is approving the bills passed by the legislative branch and signing them into law. If they aren't approved, they are vetoed. The President also appoints the judges who work in the judicial branch, but the legislative branch has to approve them.

Name: _____

The Executive Branch



1. The main jobs of the executive branch are to _____ and _____ federal laws.

2. Which of the following is/are *not* part of the executive branch?
   - **a.** judges the President appoints
   - **b.** the United States Post Office
   - **c.** The Department of Education
   - **d.** the President's advisors

3. Who is in charge of the United States military?

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5. Read the following sentence from the article.

   If they aren't approved, they are vetoed.

   Using context clues, what does the underlined word most likely mean?
   - **a.** ignored
   - **b.** supported
   - **c.** disapproved
   - **d.** thrown away

6. Write the title of the person who does each job on the line.

   a. signs bills into law _____

   b. is in charge of the Justice Department _____

   c. President of the Senate _____

   d. talks to the public for the President _____

   e. is in charge of the Education Department _____

Name: _____

The Executive Branch

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ c t e e x u e
   clue: *to carry out*

2. _____ r r t e e n s e p
   clue: *to act or speak for someone or something else*

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5. _____ e f r o e n c
   clue: *to make sure something is done or followed*

6. _____ g n e i c a s e
   clue: *groups set up to do a particular job or provide a particular service*

7. _____ f f e e v t i c e
   clue: *done well; accomplishes what it is meant to accomplish*

8. _____ g e n o r f i
   clue: *from a different country*

9. _____ v o d i s r a
   clue: *someone who gives advice about a particular thing*

10. _____ e t a r t y n o
    clue: *a type of lawyer*

Name: _____

The Executive Branch

In the article, "The Executive Branch," you learned that the executive branch of government is made up of many people and departments.

Pretend someone tells you that the President is the only important person in the executive branch. Using information from the article, write a response explaining why that is not true. Make sure to talk about other executive departments and jobs people do.

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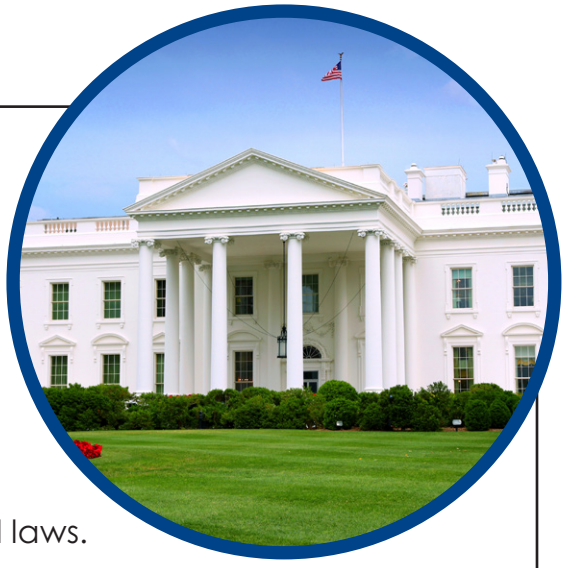
ANSWER KEY

The Executive Branch



1. The main jobs of the executive branch are to execute and enforce federal laws.

2. Which of the following is/are *not* part of the executive branch?

   a. judges the President appoints
   b. the United States Post Office
   c. The Department of Education
   d. the President's advisors

3. Who is in charge of the United States military?

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5. Read the following sentence from the article.

   If they aren't approved, they are vetoed.

   Using context clues, what does the underlined word most likely mean?

   a. ignored
   b. supported
   c. disapproved
   d. thrown away

6. Write the title of the person who does each job on the line.

   a. signs bills into law — President
   b. is in charge of the Justice Department — Attorney General
   c. President of the Senate — Vice President
   d. talks to the public for the President — Press Secretary
   e. is in charge of the Education Department — Secretary of Education

ANSWER KEY

The Executive Branch

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. execute — c t e e x u e
   clue: *to carry out*

2. represent — r r t e e n s e p
   clue: *to act or speak for someone or something else*

Preview
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5. service — e f r o e n c
   clue: *to make sure something is done or followed*

6. agencies — g n e i c a s e
   clue: *groups set up to do a particular job or provide a particular service*

7. effective — f f e e v t i c e
   clue: *done well; accomplishes what it is meant to accomplish*

8. foreign — g e n o r f i
   clue: *from a different country*

9. advisor — v o d i s r a
   clue: *someone who gives advice about a particular thing*

10. attorney — e t a r t y n o
    clue: *a type of lawyer*