The Executive Branch

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, outlines the plan of government for the United States of America. It is the oldest constitution that is still in use today. Three different "branches," or parts, of the government were established, including the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. These three branches of the "federal," or national government have separate roles and responsibilities, but are equal in the importance and power.

The Executive Branch is described in Article II of the Constitution. The main executive officers are the President and Vice-President. They are assisted by a group of advisors, called the Cabinet, who help in running the federal government. The main duty of the Executive branch is to carry out laws. This means to put laws into action. The President lives and works at the White House in Washington D.C.

The chart below summarizes the most important information about the Executive Branch. Read the chart carefully and use the information to answer the questions on the back of this paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN OFFICERS</th>
<th>President &amp; Vice President Cabinet: appointed by the President with Senate approval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LENGTH OF ONE TERM</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAXIMUM # OF TERMS</td>
<td>2 Full Terms (or a max. 10 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP WHO ELECTS MAIN OFFICERS</td>
<td>Electoral College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF ELECTORS PER STATE</td>
<td>Equal to the number of its Congressmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALIFICATIONS</td>
<td>Natural (native) born citizen At least 35 years of age Resident of the United States for at least 14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORDER OF SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY</td>
<td>Vice President Speaker of the House President Pro-tempore of the Senate Cabinet: in order Department’s were established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECTION OF A NEW VICE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>President nominates a new Vice President Approved by a majority vote of H. of R. and Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Grant pardons and reprieves in federal cases Must give State of the Union Address once a year Call special sessions of Congress Senate approval required with majority vote: - make treaties with foreign countries - Appoint federal officials including Cabinet, Supreme Court Justices and ambassadors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMOVAL FROM OFFICE</td>
<td>For “treason, bribery, and other high crimes &amp; misdemeanors” Impeached (accused) by majority vote of H. of R. Convicted (found guilty) by 2/3 of Senate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Use the information from the front of this page to answer the questions below.

Part 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

1. The main duty of the Executive branch is to _________________.

2. The two main officers of the Executive branch are the ________________ and the _________________.

3. The ________________ is a group of Presidential advisors.

4. The Executive branch is discussed in Article _______ of the U.S. Constitution.

5. The President is the ________________ of the armed forces.

Part 2: MULTIPLE CHOICE

6. If the President and Vice President die, who becomes President?
   A. Secretary of State  B. President Pro tempore  C. Speaker of the House

7. The length of one term of office for the President is:
   A. two years  B. four years  C. six years

8. The Vice President does all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. preside over the Senate  B. vetoes bills  C. takes over if the President dies

9. If the President is impeached, this means that:
   A. the Senate has found him guilty  B. the House has removed him from office  C. the House has accused him of wrongdoing(s)

10. Which is NOT a qualification to be President?
    A. at least 35 years old  B. has been a Senator  C. a natural born citizen

11. The President can only be convicted in an impeachment trial by the:
    A. Senate  B. House of Representatives  C. Supreme Court

12. Which is NOT a power of the President?
    A. to declare war  B. to grant pardons  C. to veto bills

13. The number of terms for a President is limited to:
    A. one term  B. two terms  C. three terms

14. The Cabinet belongs to which branch of government?
    A. Legislative  B. Executive  C. Judicial

15. The President can do all of the following EXCEPT:
    A. veto a bill  B. send combat troops in emergencies  C. impeach a judge

Part 3: TRUE OR FALSE

16. The President can appoint a Supreme Court Justice with Senate approval

17. The President must give a State of the Union message once a year.

18. The Electoral College is no longer in existence.

19. The number of electors per state is based on its number of Congressmen.

20. If the President dies, the Speaker of the House becomes Vice President

21. The President can pardon persons in federal cases.

22. A person born in another country who becomes a citizen could become President.

23. If the President is impeached, the trial is held in the Senate.

24. According to the Constitution, the President must be male.

25. The President can call Congress into “special session.”

Part 4: OPINION

26. Why do you think the President is limited to two terms?

27. What do you think is the most important power of the President? Why?

28. Why do you think the President must be a natural born citizen?
The Judicial Branch

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, outlines the plan of government for the United States of America. It is the oldest constitution that is still in use today. Three different “branches,” or parts, of the government were established, including the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. These three branches of the “federal,” or national government have separate roles and responsibilities, but are equal in the importance and power.

The Judicial Branch is described in Article III of the U.S. Constitution. The main judicial body is the Supreme Court, which is the highest court in the land. There are two levels of lower courts, including the District Courts and the Courts of Appeals. The main duty of the Judicial Branch is to interpret laws. This means to explain what laws mean. The Supreme Court meets in the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C..

The chart below summarizes the most important information about the Judicial Branch. Read the chart carefully and use the information to answer the questions on the back of this sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN COURTS</th>
<th>Highest: Supreme Court</th>
<th>Middle: Courts of Appeals</th>
<th>Lowest: District Courts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF COURTS</td>
<td>Supreme Court: 1</td>
<td>Courts of Appeals: 11</td>
<td>District Courts: 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN DUTIES</td>
<td>Supreme Court: To decide if laws are constitutional</td>
<td>Courts of Appeals: To re-hear cases from lower courts</td>
<td>District Courts: To decide cases involving federal laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPLIES ONLY TO THE SUPREME COURT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF JUSTICES</th>
<th>Nine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDING OFFICER</td>
<td>Chief Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM OF OFFICE</td>
<td>For life on good behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPOINTED BY</td>
<td>The President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVED BY</td>
<td>A majority vote of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL POWERS</td>
<td>To review and reverse decisions of lower courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Use the information from the front of this page to answer the questions below.

Part 1: FILL IN THE BLANK
1. The main duty of the Judicial branch is ____________________________.
2. The three levels of federal courts from the lowest to highest are: ____________________________, ____________________________, and ____________________________.
3. There are ___________ Justices on the Supreme Court.
4. The Judicial branch is discussed in Article ___________ of the Constitution.
5. The Supreme Court meets at the ____________________________ in Washington D.C.

Part 2: TRUE OR FALSE
   ___  6. The Supreme Court has the power to declare laws unconstitutional
   ___  7. The presiding officer of the Supreme Court is called the Moderator
   ___  8. The highest court in the United States is the Court of Appeals
   ___  9. Most federal court cases begin in the District Courts
   ___ 10. Supreme Court Justices may be removed through the impeachment process.
   ___ 11. A Supreme Court decision is final and may not be appealed to a higher court.
   ___ 12. Supreme Court Justices are elected every six years
   ___ 13. Federal judges must be natural born citizens.
   ___ 14. There are three levels to the federal court system.
   ___ 15. The main job of the Supreme Court is to carry out laws.

Part 3: DEFINITIONS - Unscramble the following words or phrases from the front of this page and write a brief definition in the blank space provided.

16. THLOCSITTUONIA - ____________________________
17. PALAPE - ____________________________
18. HFEIC ETJICSU - ____________________________
19. RPIITTEERN WSAL - ____________________________
20. WIEREV DNA SVEERRE - ____________________________

Part 4: OPINION
17. Why do you think the term for office for Supreme Court Justice is life?

18. Why do you think there are an odd number of Justices on the Supreme Court?
The Legislative Branch

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, outlines the plan of government for the United States of America. It is the oldest constitution that is still in use today. Three different "branches," or parts, of the government were established, including the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. These three branches of the "federal," or national government have separate roles and responsibilities, but are equal in the importance and power.

The Legislative Branch is described in Article I of the Constitution. The main legislative body is the Congress, which is made up of two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The main duty of the Legislative branch is to make laws. Congress meets in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

The chart below summarizes the most important information about the Legislative Branch. Read the chart carefully and use the information to answer the questions on the back of this sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPARISON</th>
<th>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</th>
<th>SENATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL # OF MEMBERS</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF MEMBERS FROM EACH STATE</td>
<td>Based on State Population</td>
<td>Equal number for each state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALIFICATIONS</td>
<td>At least 25 years old</td>
<td>At least 30 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Citizen for 7 years</td>
<td>Citizen for 9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident of the state where elected</td>
<td>Resident of the state where elected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LENGTH OF ONE TERM OF OFFICE</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDING OFFICERS</td>
<td>Speaker of the House (elected by members)</td>
<td>Vice President of U.S. (called President of Senate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>President pro tempore (elected by members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL POWERS</td>
<td>Begin tax bills</td>
<td>- Approves Presidential appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impeaches (accuses) federal officials</td>
<td>- Tries &amp; Convicts impeached officials by 2/3's vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Approves treaties by 2/3's vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWERS IN COMMON</td>
<td>Pass Bills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raise, borrow, &amp; coin money</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Declare War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Use the information from the front of this page to answer the questions below.
Part 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

1. The main duty of the Legislative branch is _________________________________.
2. The Legislative branch as two parts: the __________________ and the _____________________.
3. There are ____________ Congressmen.
5. The title for Vice President while presiding over the Senate is the _____________________.

Part 2: TRUE OR FALSE

___ 6. The term of office for a Senator is two years.
___ 7. The number of Representatives from each state is based on the state’s population.
___ 8. A Senator is elected for a six year term
___ 9. Tax bills may begin in either the Senate or the House.
___ 10. Congress has the power to declare war.
___ 11. Each state has 4 Senators.
___ 12. The House of Representatives has the power to impeach, or accuse a federal official.
___ 13. Presidential appointments must be approved by a two-third vote of both the Senate and the House.
___ 14. A Representative must be at least 25 years old.
___ 15. A foreign born person who has been a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years could be elected to the Senate.

Part 3: MATCHING - Decide which House of Congress is described for each item below. Use the following answers: (H) for House of Representatives, (S) for the Senate, ot (B) if it applies to Both.

___ 16. Has 100 members
___ 17. All members are elected every two years.
___ 18. Has the power to pass bills
___ 19. Members must be at least 30 years old.
___ 20. Members must live in the state they represent.
___ 21. Has a Speaker for its presiding member.
___ 22. Conducts impeachment trials for federal officials.
___ 23. Discussed in Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
___ 24. Has the power to approve or reject treaties
___ 25. Members may be either male or female.

Part 4: OPINION

26. Why do you think there are higher qualifications for Senators?