

High School Social Studies

Grade 12

Government

2019 – 2020

Extended Spring Break

Instructional Packet

WEEK 1

Chapter Summary

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The Presidency

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS What are the powers and roles of the president and how have they changed over time?

Presidents use the powers given them in the Constitution, their inherent powers, and powers delegated by Congress to fulfill their seven roles.

Sources of Presidential Power

- The Founders created a strong executive to carry out the acts of Congress and to hold the legislature in check.
- The Constitution gives the president power to execute laws, veto legislation, command the military, and engage with foreign leaders.
- Presidents have increased their power by using inherent powers, or powers not clearly expressed in the Constitution.
- Presidents have claimed executive privilege, or the right to withhold from Congress or the courts information about communications between the president and his or her advisers.
- The seven main presidential roles are head of state, chief executive, commander in chief, chief diplomat, legislative leader, economic planner, and party leader.

Head of State and Chief Executive

- As head of state, the president represents the nation by receiving foreign dignitaries and performing ceremonial duties.
- As chief executive, the president leads the executive branch of government, which carries out laws passed by Congress and runs the programs created by Congress.
- The president appoints the top-level federal officials to run the executive branch and all federal and Supreme Court judges.
- The president can issue executive orders, which are presidential directives having the force of law without the approval of Congress. Executive orders must be related to powers given to the president in the Constitution or those delegated to the president by Congress.

- The president can postpone a person's legal punishment with a reprieve, or release a person from legal punishment with a pardon.

Commander in Chief and Chief Diplomat

- As commander in chief of the armed forces, the president may use federal troops to defend the nation or keep order, but Congress retains the power to declare war and to fund the military.
- During a war, presidents often claim increased powers to protect the nation.
- The president, as chief diplomat, has sole power to negotiate and sign treaties, but two-thirds of the Senate must approve these treaties before they go into effect.
- The president has the authority to make executive agreements with other countries, or pacts having the same legal status as treaties but not requiring Senate consent.

Legislative, Economic, and Party Leader

- Most presidents have significant influence over the types of laws that are proposed and how those laws are crafted.
- The president's power to veto any bill passed by Congress is a key lawmaking tool. Even the threat of a veto can influence Congress because overriding a veto is difficult.
- The president's role of chief economic advisor has developed over time and includes appointing Federal Reserve System members, submitting an annual economic report to Congress, and preparing an annual budget to submit to Congress.
- As party leader, the president may endorse party members running for office, appoint party leadership, and distribute political patronage.

Assessing Background Knowledge

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The Presidency

Directions: Based on what you already know about the presidency, select the response that you think best completes each statement.

1. The two basic types of presidential powers are constitutional powers and
 - ☐ a. veto powers.
 - ☐ b. inherent powers.
 - ☐ c. legislative powers.
 - ☐ d. judicial powers.
2. When the president appoints a judge to a district court, he is acting in his role as
 - ☐ a. party leader.
 - ☐ b. commander in chief.
 - ☐ c. head of state.
 - ☐ d. chief executive.
3. An executive order
 - ☐ a. has the force of law and requires the approval of Congress.
 - ☐ b. has the force of law but does not require the approval of Congress.
 - ☐ c. does not have the force of law until Congress approves it.
 - ☐ d. does not have the force of law nor the approval of Congress.
4. The president is the commander in chief of the armed forces because
 - ☐ a. the president makes treaties to end or avoid wars.
 - ☐ b. the president has the power to appoint judges.
 - ☐ c. it is an inherent power.
 - ☐ d. the Constitution assigns the president this role.
5. The president works hard to prepare an annual budget which then
 - ☐ a. goes into effect as soon as it is completed.
 - ☐ b. must be submitted to the House of Representatives for approval.
 - ☐ c. must be debated and modified by the Supreme Court.
 - ☐ d. must be approved by political party leaders in the Senate.

Reteaching Activity

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The Presidency

Terms and Concepts

Directions: Matching Match each item with its definition.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. a formal agreement between the governments of two or more countries that requires Senate approval | A. executive order |
| _____ 2. the act of passing legislation into law again | B. amnesty |
| _____ 3. an authorization to act that has been given to a representative | C. executive agreement |
| _____ 4. appointment to political office, usually as a reward for helping a president get elected | D. Federal Reserve System |
| _____ 5. the nation's central banking system | E. reprieve |
| _____ 6. a pact between the president and the head of a foreign government that does not require Senate consent | F. inherent power |
| _____ 7. a power not described in the Constitution, but that has been claimed by presidents | G. treaty |
| _____ 8. a rule issued by the president that has the force of law | H. mandate |
| _____ 9. a presidential order that pardons a group of people who have committed an offense against the government | I. political patronage |
| _____ 10. a presidential order that postpones legal punishment | J. reauthorization |

Summarizing Information

Directions: Short Answer Answer each of the following questions.

- 11. Listing** List at least four checks and balances that the Constitution puts on presidential powers.

- 12. Explaining** What are inherent powers and how do they differ from constitutional powers?

Reteaching Activity *cont.*

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The Presidency

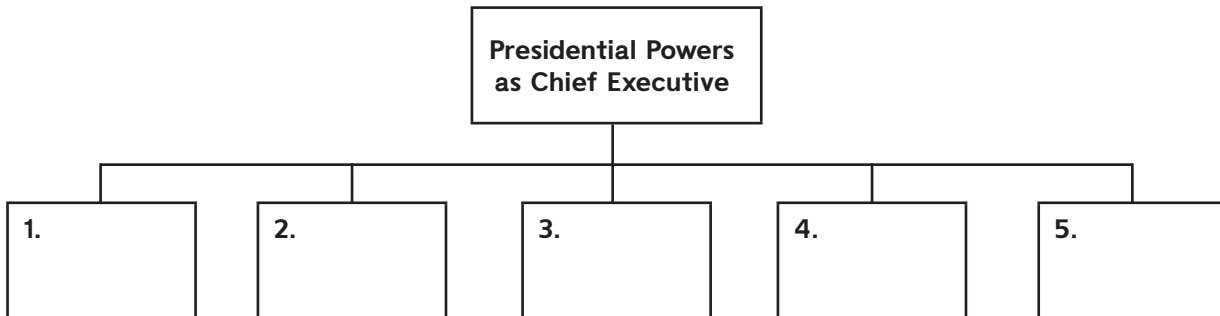
13. **Comparing and Contrasting** How are the roles of head of state and chief diplomat similar? How are they different?

14. **Analyzing** When do presidents typically make use of inherent powers? Why?

15. **Describing** What kinds of help does the president's political party expect from him or her?

Organizing Information

Classifying Fill in the boxes below with five powers that the president has in the role of chief executive.



Essay

Directions: Answer the following question on a separate piece of paper.

Determining Importance Discuss at least three factors that influence how easily a president will be able to get his or her legislation passed by Congress. Indicate which factor you think is the most important, and give a reason for your answer.

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WEEK 2

Chapter Summary

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Choosing the President

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS What are the key components of presidential leadership? What are the structure and functions of the executive branch? Why and how has the process for nominating and electing presidents changed over time?

Constitutional requirements, informal requirements, and changes over time have led to the current system of electing the president and of clarifying presidential terms and succession.

Presidential Qualifications and Leadership

- According to the Constitution, the president and the vice president must be natural-born U.S. citizens, at least 35 years old, and have resided in the U.S. at least 14 years before taking office.
- Informal requirements include government experience, moderate political views, and financial support.
- Past presidents have been Caucasian men, but backgrounds are becoming more diverse.
- Presidents' leadership skills include understanding the public, the ability to communicate and to compromise, a sense of timing, and political courage.

Presidential Salary, the Vice President, and Succession

- It was traditional for a president to serve only two terms until the Twenty-second Amendment limited presidents to two terms.
- The salary of the president is set by Congress, but benefits include living in the White House, free medical care, and special travel arrangements.
- The constitutional responsibilities of the vice president are assuming the presidency in case of the death, disability, impeachment, or resignation of the president; presiding over the Senate and voting in case of a tie; and helping decide whether the president is unable to carry out his or her duties.
- The Twenty-fifth Amendment clarifies the succession to the presidency and the vice presidency.

- The order of presidential succession is the vice president, the Speaker of the House, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the secretary of state, and the cabinet heads in the order their departments were created.

Electing the President

- In a presidential election, voters actually cast their ballots for electors.
- The Framers created the Electoral College due to concerns about the average citizen's judgment to select a president and they did not want Congress to choose the president.
- Candidates seek their party nomination by campaigning in states until a series of state primaries or caucuses occur, after which delegates select their party's candidate at a national nominating convention.
- Before the general election, candidates travel extensively, especially to "swing states."
- Although the electoral system usually works well and supports the principle of federalism, there are concerns about it.
- With the winner-take-all system, a candidate who loses the popular vote may win the electoral vote, or a third-party candidate could prevent either major-party candidate from having the necessary electoral votes.
- Over time, there have been many proposals for reforming the electoral college system, including eliminating the Electoral College altogether.
- In January after election year, the new president takes the oath of office and gives an inaugural address.

Assessing Background Knowledge


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Choosing the President

Directions: For each item listed below, write what you already know and what you would like to learn about how presidents are elected and the qualifications and leadership skills needed to be president. When you have completed the chapter, fill in the column "What I Have Learned."

	What I Know	What I Would Like to Know	What I Have Learned
Constitutional Requirements for the Presidency			
Leadership Skills Required of a President			
Responsibilities of the Vice President			
Presidential Succession			
Steps in Becoming a Presidential Candidate			
Role of the Electoral College			
Concerns about the Electoral College			

Reteaching Activity

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Choosing the President

Terms and Concepts

Directions: Completion Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.

1. _____ are members of a political party who are chosen in each state to formally elect both the president and the vice president.
2. In a(n) _____, members of a specific party go to the polls and vote on which candidate they want to earn their party's nomination.
3. In a(n) _____, a very large majority of the votes are for one side.
4. Almost every state uses a(n) _____ in which the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the state wins all the electoral votes for that state.
5. A(n) _____ is an event held before an election where members of a political party select delegates who will vote to nominate a candidate at the national party convention.
6. A(n) _____ is a meeting of a political party where delegates from each state vote for the candidate supported by their state's voters.
7. A(n) _____ provide financial support for a political candidate.
8. Currently, the president receives _____, or a salary, of \$400,000 a year.
9. If the office of the president becomes vacant, the order of _____ determines the order in which officials will fill it.
10. Congress created the _____ to enforce federal election laws.

Summarizing Information

Directions: Short Answer Answer each of the following questions.

11. **Analyzing** Why is the ability to compromise an important leadership skill?

Reteaching Activity *cont.*


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Choosing the President

12. **Evaluating** Of the three constitutional duties of the vice president, which one do you think is most important? Why?

13. **Identifying Central Issues** What concerns did the Framers have that led them to create the Electoral College?

Essay

Directions: Essay Answer the following question on a separate piece of paper.

Analyzing Describe the events that lead up to each party's nominating a candidate for president. In your discussion, explain the difference between a primary and a caucus and state which one you think better supports the democratic process.

Visualizing Information

For each of the events in the left column, enter the primary leadership skill it illustrates in the right column. Choose from these leadership skills: understanding the public; ability to communicate; sense of timing; ability to compromise; and political courage.

Event		Primary Leadership Skill
In response to a major oil spill, the president urges Congress to pass stronger environmental protection legislation.	→	1.
Despite polls that show most Americans do not want to get involved in conflicts, the president speaks out strongly when a country mistreats an ethnic minority inside its borders.	→	2.
The president is aware that many Congress members are concerned about how quickly proposed legislation will go into effect, and the president agrees to increase the time from 120 to 240 days.	→	3.