

The executive branch of U.S. government

Directions: Read the informational (expository) text below about one of the 3 branches of government. You will use this information to fill in a chart about the 3 branches of government. Please highlight key terms or small phrases which list important information about each branch.

The United States government is divided into 3 branches of parts. They each have specific jobs that they perform. There is a separation of powers between the 3 branches which means that they each have certain powers that the other branches do not have and cannot violate or take away. The U.S. Constitution describes each branch and the powers they possess. No one branch has all power and they check and balance the power of one another. The final authority in our country is the U.S. Constitution.

The executive branch's main job is to execute or enforce the laws that are passed. They are to make sure that the laws are carried out. The President is the one in charge of this branch but he has many agencies and people under him that work to make sure that the laws are enforced. The President is elected to a 4 year term but is limited by law to only serving 2 terms. The President has various important powers. Some of them are listed below:

- a. Commander-in-chief of the military- the President is the one that has the final say over the military and can order them to go to certain places around the world.
- b. Approves or vetoes (rejects) potential laws- a bill from Congress can only become a law when the President signs it. He can also say no to it.
- c. Grant pardons to individuals- the President has the power to grant a pardon (forgiveness of a crime) to an individual for federal crimes or crimes committed against the U.S. This can wipe away the legal charges against them.
- d. Make treaties with other nations- the President is allowed to make agreements with other countries around the world.
- e. Chief diplomat of the U.S.- the President represents the U.S. to other nations around the world as he travels to visit world leaders.