

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #15 – Executive Branch



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Constitution Close-Up: The Constitution says the United States Government must have three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Each branch has its own responsibilities, but sometimes they work together to check each other's work. Let's take a look at each one!

Today's lesson is about the EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Article II of the Constitution establishes the executive branch, which includes the President, Vice President, and Cabinet.

The PRESIDENT: The President is both the Leader of our Government and Commander of our military. He or she has several jobs: enforce federal law; choose certain Government leaders and judges; sign treaties with other countries; and either sign or veto laws from Congress. To become President, you must be 35 years old, born in the U.S., and have lived here for at least 14 years. Presidents can serve for a maximum of 8 years.

The CABINET: The President's Cabinet includes the Vice President and 15 department leaders. The executive departments oversee things like agriculture, education, housing, labor, transportation, and many other things important to citizens of the United States.

Sticky Situation: Imagine you're on a team with one Captain at a time. Your team has two options – either choose one person to serve as Captain for the entire year or choose a different person each month to be the captain so everyone on the team can get a turn. Which options would you choose, and why? Now, thinking about the President of the United States, what do you think are the pros and cons of limiting the person in that role to serve only 8 years in office?

Activity: The President gets to live in the White House in Washington, D.C., and works in their own office, which is called the Oval Office. If you became President, how would you decorate the Oval Office? I would have pictures of dog bones on the walls! What special pictures would you include? Draw a picture of what your Oval Office would look like.

Civics Resources: For more information about the Executive Branch, visit [The White House website](#)

Or check out this video from [The History Channel about the Executive Branch](#)