

The President of the United States



Pre-reading

Questions:

- What does the President do?
- When is the President elected?

Definitions:

- Executive – part of the government that puts laws into effect
- Legislative – part of the government that has the power to create and pass laws
- Judicial – having to do with judges or courts of law
- Bill – a proposed law that has not yet been voted on
- Propose – to present or suggest as an idea to be considered

Reading

17 The President of the United States lives and works at the White House in the nation's capitol,
Washington, D.C. Our nation's leader is elected on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every
34 fourth year. In order to be elected, the candidate for president must be at least 35 years old. He or she must
56 be a natural born U.S. citizen and have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.

73 The president is the most powerful figure in the U.S. government. The Constitution of the United
89 States gives the president this enormous power. However, it also limits the president's power. The authors of
106 the Constitution wanted a strong leader as president, but they did not want an all-powerful king. As a result,
126 they divided the powers of the United States government among three branches – executive, legislative, and
142 judicial.

143 The President is the head of the executive branch of the United States government. He has many
160 roles in the position. He is the Head of Government, the Head of State, and the Commander in Chief. As the
181 Head of Government he has a great impact in making America's laws. His job is to approve the laws that
201 Congress (the legislative branch) creates. When the Senate and the House approve a bill, they send it to the
220 President. If he agrees with the proposed law, he signs it. Then, the law goes into effect.

237 If the President does not like a bill, he can refuse to sign it. When he does this, it is called a veto. If
261 the President vetoes a bill, it will most likely never become a law. Congress can override a veto. To override
281 a veto, two-thirds of the members of Congress must vote against the President. Even though the President
299 has a great deal of power, he cannot write bills. He can propose a bill, but a member of Congress must write
321 and submit it.

324 The President serves as the American Head of State. As Head of State he meets with the leaders of
343 other countries and can make treaties with them. However, the Senate must approve any treaty before it
360 becomes official. He also performs ceremonial duties such as holding state dinners and traveling throughout
375 the world representing the United States.

381 The President is the Commander in Chief. This means he is the head of the U.S. military. He is
400 responsible for the nation's security. He can authorize the use of troops overseas without declaring war. To
417 officially declare war, he must get the approval of Congress.

427 The President serves a term of four years. The most one President can serve is two terms.
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