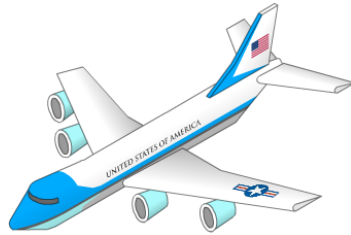


# All In a Day's Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Coolest Job in the Country!

Imagine you have been elected President of the United States. What do you think would be the best part of the job? Having your own personal jet? Living in the White House? Having a bowling alley in your house? (Yes, there's a one lane bowling alley in the basement of the White House!)

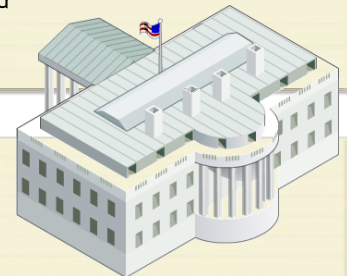


Being president is not just fun and games. You have real responsibilities. Below is a list of things you would do as president of the United States. Which do you think would be the hardest to do? Which do you think would be the easiest?

**Rank the tasks in each list from 1 (hardest) to 3 (easiest). There is no correct answer! Use your own judgment.**

### Task List A

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lead weekly meetings where I ask the leaders of executive branch departments for advice on how to handle the country's most difficult problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go to Congress and give my yearly "State of the Union" speech on what's happening in the U.S., which is broadcast live on television.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide whether to approve or reject a bill Congress has sent me that would cut research funding for a serious disease that not many people have.



### Task List B

- \_\_\_\_\_ Follow the Constitution and the law even if I disagree with it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide whether to send more troops into war knowing that some will die, but it will keep the country safe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure the Department of Homeland Security carries out new safety laws at airports even though I know many travelers will be angry.

### Task List C

- \_\_\_\_\_ Answer difficult questions from reporters at a press conference where I'm asking Congress to spend a lot of money on space exploration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Try to negotiate an agreement with another country that would lower the taxes each one adds to the sale of items from the other country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choose a new Supreme Court justice to replace one who is retiring.

# All In a Day's Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The President's Rule Book

The President of the United States is the leader of our nation and the leader of the executive branch of government. The Constitution of the United States gives all the rules for being president. It tells who can become president, what powers the president has, and some of the roles and duties the president takes on.

Read it for yourself:



*Donald Trump is the current president of the United States. He was elected in November 2016 and took office on January 20, 2017.*

### from Article II of the United States Constitution

#### Section 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. . . .

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

#### Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States . . .

#### Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; . . . he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

### from Article 1, Section 7

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it. . .

## Lawmaking and the Prez

One of the President's most important functions is not in Article II—it's in Article I, which talks about Congress! (The Constitution can be sneaky that way.)

Congress is the lawmaking branch of government, but the Constitution requires the president's approval before a bill can actually become a law. The president either signs the bill to approve it or rejects the bill with a **veto** and sends it back to Congress.

# All In a Day's Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Second In Command

The Constitution of the United States gives the president a helper: the vice president. However, the Constitution doesn't say much about what the vice president does, except that the VP is also the president of the Senate (one of the two lawmaking chambers in Congress). But the VP only presides over the Senate to cast a tiebreaking vote or when there is a ceremony. The rest of the time, the vice president advises the president, travels the world negotiating with other countries, helps carry out laws here at home, and is important to many functions in the executive branch of government.



Photo credit: Gage Skidmore

*Mike Pence is the current vice president of the United States.*



*Trump and Pence belong to the Republican Party.*

## Political Party Leaders

The president and vice president act as the leaders of their political party. This role is not part of the Constitution, but has evolved over time as part of the political process. A political party is an organized group of people who share similar views and work to influence the government in support of those views. As party leaders, the president and vice president work to accomplish the party's goals for how the government should address the issues facing our nation. The Republican and Democratic parties are the two major political parties in the U.S.

## Becoming President

In the United States, presidential elections happen every four years. A president cannot serve more than two 4-year terms—a total of eight years. This rule is found in the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which was added in 1951. If a president has only served one term and wants to be re-elected, that president ends up spending a lot of time campaigning during the last year of the term. If the president has already served a second term, often the vice president will decide to become a presidential candidate. Many presidents started out as the vice president.



*Before the 2-term limit, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to four terms in a row! He took office in 1933 and died in 1945, a few months into his fourth term.*

### Presidential Line of Succession

1. Vice President of the U.S.
  2. Speaker of the House
  3. President pro tempore of the Senate
  4. Secretary of State
  5. Secretary of the Treasury
  6. Secretary of Defense
  7. Attorney General
- (list continues with 10 more members of the president's cabinet)

## What If the President Dies?

There have been several times in the history of the United States where a president has died. When that happens, the Constitution provides that the vice president becomes president. It also gives Congress the power to make a law saying who becomes president if something happened to both the president and the vice president. Congress did this in the Presidential Succession Act, which puts the speaker of the House (the leader of the House of Representatives) next in line after the vice president and lists everyone who is in line after that.

# All In a Day's Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. I've Got the Power!** Match each responsibility of the president and vice president with the correct power or duty found in the Constitution.



## President's Responsibilities

- 1) \_\_\_\_ Lead weekly meetings where I ask the leaders of executive branch departments for advice on how to handle the country's most difficult problems.
- 2) \_\_\_\_ Go to Congress and give my yearly "State of the Union" speech on what's happening in America.
- 3) \_\_\_\_ Decide whether to approve or reject a bill that Congress has sent me.
- 4) \_\_\_\_ Follow the Constitution and the law even if I disagree with it.
- 5) \_\_\_\_ Decide whether to send more troops into war knowing that some will die, but it will keep the country safe.
- 6) \_\_\_\_ Make sure the Department of Homeland Security properly carries out new airport safety laws that will anger some travelers.
- 7) \_\_\_\_ Hold a press conference where I ask Congress to spend more money on space exploration.
- 8) \_\_\_\_ Decide whether to let someone out of prison based on the prisoner's good conduct and particular circumstances
- 9) \_\_\_\_ Negotiate an agreement with another country that would lower the taxes each one adds to the sale of items from the other country.
- 10) \_\_\_\_ Choose a new Supreme Court justice to replace one who is retiring.

## Vice President's Responsibilities

- 11) \_\_\_\_ Take over as president if I'm needed.
- 12) \_\_\_\_ Act as leader of the Senate.
- 13) \_\_\_\_ Cast a tiebreaking vote in the Senate.
- 14) \_\_\_\_ Work with the president to run the executive branch.

## Powers & Duties Listed in the Constitution:

- A. Power to carry out the laws
- B. Must protect and defend the Constitution
- C. Commander in Chief of the military
- D. Elected with the president to hold office in the executive branch
- E. May ask advisors, who lead parts of the government, for their opinion on different issues
- F. Is the president of the Senate
- G. Pardon someone for a crime, canceling their punishment
- H. Make treaties with other countries (with Senate approval)
- I. Take office as president if the current president dies, resigns, or is unable to do the job
- J. Choose new Supreme Court justices (with Senate approval)
- K. Make recommendations to Congress about what laws are needed
- L. Update Congress on how things are going in the country
- M. Sign (approve) or veto (reject) bills from Congress
- N. Can vote in the Senate if the senators are equally divided on a vote

# All In a Day's Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. So Many Laws, So Little Time!** The executive branch is in charge of carrying out thousands of laws, but the President doesn't do this alone. Departments inside the executive branch are responsible for carrying out certain kinds of laws. Complete the table by matching each executive department to its function. Use the word/picture bank for help.



Justice



Education



Treasury



Defense



Health and Human Services



Homeland Security



Agriculture



Transportation

	EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT	FUNCTION
1		Works to protect the country against terrorism and make sure the borders are safe.
2		Makes coins and paper money, tries to help the economy, and collects taxes.
3		Keeps the United States safe using the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and other military resources.
4		Enforces federal laws, prevents crime, and punishes those convicted of federal crimes.
5		Supports farmers, makes sure our food is safe, and gives recommendations about good nutrition.
6		Works to protect the health of all Americans and offers medical and other basic services to people in need.
7		Builds and maintains federal highways and railroads, makes rules for air travel, and promotes transportation safety.
8		Provides funding to public schools and helps students pay for college.

**C. Crossword!** Complete the puzzle using information from the lesson.

Across

- Name of the current president
- Length of a presidential term, in years
- Word that refers to the sequence of who will become president if something happens

Down

- Political party of the current president and vice president
- Name of the current vice president
- Number of times a president can be elected

The crossword puzzle grid consists of white squares for letters and empty space for non-letters. The starting points for the clues are:

- 1: Top row, first square.
- 2: Top row, second square.
- 3: Top row, fifth square.
- 4: Middle row, first square.
- 5: Middle row, eighth square.
- 6: Bottom row, first square.