

COMMON CORE  
Lessons & Activities

# Forms of **GOVERNMENT**

**Democracy, Monarchy, Dictatorship & More**

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

**REPRODUCIBLE**

*One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!*



# Executive Branch

Read the text and answer the questions.

The executive branch of the U.S. government is outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution. The executive branch is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws.

The head of the executive branch is the president. The president has the power to sign or veto bills proposed by Congress. The president negotiates and signs treaties, and maintains diplomatic relations with other countries. The president is the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces. The president also has the power to pardon people convicted of federal crimes.

The president appoints Cabinet leaders to assist with his or her duties. The Cabinet consists of individuals who lead federal agencies, such as the Departments of Labor, Education, Energy, Agriculture, Justice, and others. These men and women advise the president on issues concerning their agencies. Each agency is vitally important to running various areas of the government. For example, the Department of Agriculture is in charge of food safety, protecting natural resources, and supporting farmers.

The president is faced with many challenging decisions every day. The Executive Office of the President, or EOP, is made up of advisors who support the president. The president selects his or her advisory team and the White House chief of staff oversees those advisors.

The vice president takes the place of the president when the president is no longer able to carry out his or her duties. The vice president serves as the president of the Senate and casts the deciding vote when there is a tie in the Senate.

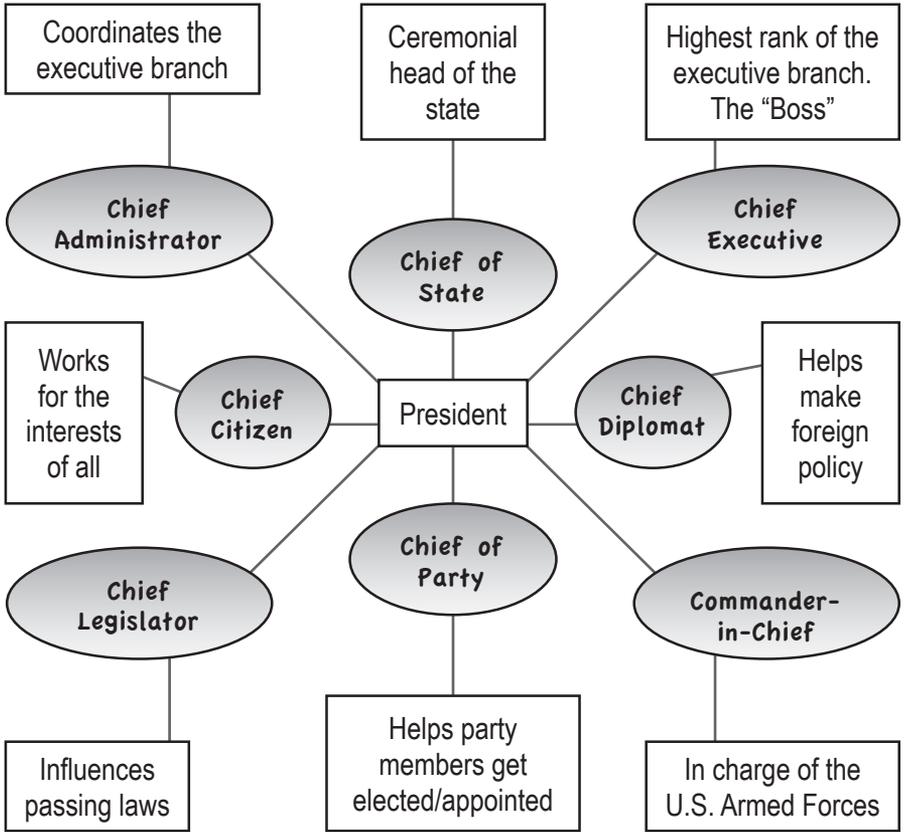
1. Write an appropriate headline for each paragraph.
2. Create a main idea graphic organizer to identify the responsibilities of the president.
3. In what ways are the Cabinet and the EOP similar?
4. Use inferences from the text to explain the relationship between the president and the many members of the executive branch.



## GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

# Roles of the President

Analyze the graphical organizer and complete the activity.



Use the graphic organizer to write at least two generalizations\* about each of the following topics. Then cite evidence from the graphic organizer to support each generalization.

1. The importance of the president
2. What it would be like to be president
3. What skills you would need to be the president

\*Generalizations are broad statements or conclusions based on the review of many facts and details.