



GRADE 6+

# The Executive Branch | Lesson Plan

What is the role of the Executive Branch and how is it structured?

Students learn about the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the Executive Branch of the United States. They'll join Uncle Sam as he quizzes kid contestants about the topic and complete a fun follow-along worksheet.

## Learning Objectives:

- Define the roles/responsibilities of the Executive Branch in enforcing laws and leading the country.
- Recognize the requirements to serve as president.
- Recognize that the Executive Branch comprises the President, Vice President, Cabinet, and other administrative offices.
- Identify key Cabinet positions.
- Know the powers of the Executive Branch in vetoing or signing bills into law, making treaties, appointing justices, and commanding the military.
- Understand the importance of balancing power between multiple groups of people and how representative government protects the interests of all Americans.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **The Executive Branch:** A branch of the U.S. government which consists of the President, Vice President, and Cabinet. Its main responsibility is to enforce the law and lead the country.
- **The President:** The senior leader of the Executive Branch of U.S. Government. This person is the highest-ranking government official in the United States. He is considered the leader of the country and, often, “the most powerful man in the world.”
- **Veto:** The act of a president to reject a bill passed by Congress.
- **Cabinet:** A group of trusted senior advisors who oversee different government departments.
- **Electoral College:** A group of electors given power by the Constitution to elect the President of the United States.

**Educational Standards:** Civics, American Values, U.S. History

## What You'll Need

- Video: [Street Smarts: The Executive Branch](#)



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: The Executive Branch* ([Download PDF](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm Up: What do you know about the Executive Branch? (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *What would you do if you were the most powerful man in the world?* Take responses from the students.
2. Ask: *Should the most powerful man in the world have any limits put on his power? What could go wrong without any limits?*
3. Discuss: *The President of the United States is often called the most powerful man in the world, but the Constitution limits the President through the “separation of powers.” Why is this important? What are the limits? What powers does the President have?*
4. Display a copy of *Street Smarts: The Executive Branch* Worksheet (side with blanks) on a screen in the classroom.
5. Call on students to read each statement aloud/preview the statements before watching the video.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let’s play a fun game to learn more about the Executive Branch.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.
5. Continue this process throughout the whole video.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 5 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.

## Don’t have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.