



The Office of President | Lesson Plan

What are the responsibilities of the President of the United States?

Students explore the reasoning behind the Founding Fathers' decision to create the role of the President, delve into the specific duties and responsibilities of the office, and trace how the position has transformed and adapted throughout the nation's history.

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the historical reasons that led the Founding Fathers to choose a President rather than a king to lead the United States.
- Identify and outline the specific duties and responsibilities of the President within the framework of the executive branch of government.
- Examine and contrast the roles and responsibilities of past Presidents with those of the current President, highlighting the evolution and changes over time.

Key Vocabulary:

- **President:** the leader of the United States, often the most powerful person in the world
- **Executive Order:** an order issued by the President intended to clarify or further explain laws and regulations passed by Congress
- **Commander-in-Chief:** the title held by the President due to his role in defending the nation from threats and carrying out military policy

Educational Standards: History, Civics, Government, Western Civilization, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Street Smarts: The Office of President*.



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *The Office of President*. ([Download PDF](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: If I Was President... (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *If you were President of the United States for a day, what do you think it would be like? Would you like to have that job? Why or why not?* Allow students to share answers.
2. Say: *How much do you know about the responsibilities of the President of the United States? Let's find out.*
3. Display a copy of Street Smarts: The Office of the President Worksheet on a screen in the classroom.
4. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to answer them as a class. Invite students to share out loud (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see how many answers we got right.*
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.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a 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.