

# PRESIDENTIAL DAY PLANNER

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Review a typical day in the life of the President of the United States.
2. Identify the roles of the president.
3. Analyze events in the president's day with regards to the roles of the president.

TEKS: Govt.8B

Materials Needed: A copy of the day planner and presidential roles for each student.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Hand out and review the roles and duties of the President of the United States.
2. Have the students brainstorm what they think a day in the life of the President of the United States might look like.
3. Hand out the copy of a fictional entry in the president's day planner and go over with the students.
4. Break the students into pairs and have the students identify the roles played in the events listed on the day planner entry.

NOTE: There are multiple answers to the role played. Accept the students' answers if they can validate their choices.

Extension for GT/PreAP/AP: Have the students prepare their own day's activities (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) in the president's day planner, attempting to use all of the roles of the president. Compare the day the students created to the one provided.

# ***PRESIDENTIAL ROLES***

## **Chief of State**

In this role, the president is the symbolic and ceremonial head of the federal government; the representative of the people of the U.S. One non-symbolic example of this role is the right of the president to pardon a person for offenses against the United States as long as they have not been impeached, convicted, and removed from office.

## **Chief Executive**

This role requires the president to enforce the provisions of federal law as well as carry out his/her constitutional powers, such as making selections to appointed positions in the federal government. Two examples of carrying out federal law might include declaring a certain area a natural disaster area after a flood or allowing low cost loans or other federal aid to victims. Finally the president can issue executive orders. Twentieth century examples of significant executive orders include: Truman desegregating the armed forces; Kennedy instituting an affirmative action program for federal employment; Clinton returning abortion counseling to federally funded clinics; and Bush's order repealing Clinton's order concerning abortion counseling.

## **Chief Diplomat**

The president is in charge of American foreign policy and is the nation's chief spokesman to the rest of the world. The Constitution gives the president the power to make treaties with the consent of two-thirds of the senate and to recognize foreign governments. The president can also enter into executive agreements with other nations which are actually more numerous in recent years than treaties.

## **Commander in Chief**

Presidents have almost unlimited powers as commander in chief, while Congress has the power to declare war and to provide for raising and maintaining the armed forces by appropriating money for the nation's defense. But the president always has the final authority over and responsibility for any and all military matters. Since the 1973 War Powers Resolution, the president's war-making ability has attempted to be limited by Congress.

### **Chief Politician**

The president is considered the head of his or her political party. While the president cannot be elected without party support, the platform of the campaign is usually based on what he or she wishes.

### **Chief Legislator**

The president has the power from the Constitution to recommend legislation and to deliver a state of the union to message to Congress. He also gives Congress a proposed budget and annual economic reports. Possibly his strongest legislative power is his right to veto bills.

## Presidential Day-Planner

		11:00 a.m.	Secretary of the Defense and aides give briefing on the status of international conflicts ( <b>Commander-in-Chief</b> )
6:00 a.m.	Awakens and exercises followed by shower, dressing, and breakfast		
7:00 a.m.	Watches opening news of the day and scans major newspapers from around the world	11:30 a.m.	Lunch meeting with a state governor requesting federal aide for citizens recently ravished by tornados ( <b>Executive</b> )
7:30 a.m.	Briefing by staff on day's appointments and the Congressional actions of the previous day ( <b>Executive/Legislator</b> )	12:30 p.m.	Rest and personal time
8:00 a.m.	Arrives at the office and continues to review events from around the world	1:00 p.m.	Photo meeting with a Girl Scout troop from home state who has traveled to Washington D.C. ( <b>State</b> )
8:30 a.m.	Receives a call from the Labor Secretary about a possible strike in the airline industry ( <b>Executive</b> )	1:15 p.m.	Preparation and briefing with staff for upcoming press conference.
8:45 a.m.	Secretary brings in daily correspondance to review and sign. President dictates new correspondance.	2:00 p.m.	Press conference on the status of the economy followed with questions from the audience
9:25 a.m.	Meeting with key Congressional leaders to develop strategy on upcoming legislation ( <b>Legislature</b> )	2:45 p.m.	Emergency call from head of the C.I.A. over a possible breach in national security ( <b>Commander-in-Chief</b> )
10:00 a.m.	Responds to necessary phone messages— Governor of Illinois who has just had his first grandchild; chairman of the president's political party on potential candidates for mid-term elections; Director of the Office of Management about the budget. ( <b>State, Executive, Politician</b> )	3:00 p.m.	Public signing of new legislation on increasing social security benefits to widows and their children ( <b>Legislature</b> )
10:30 a.m.	Meeting with opposition leaders in Congress to ask support for upcoming legislation ( <b>Legislature</b> )	3:30 p.m.	Receives the newly appointed Ambassador to Libya ( <b>Diplomat</b> )
		4:00 p.m.	Secretary brings in new mail and documents for review and signatures
		4:30 p.m.	Final briefing from staff on day's events
		5:00 p.m.	Retires to personal quarters to rest and prepare for state dinner to honor a visiting head of state
		7:00 p.m.	State dinner ( <b>Diplomat</b> )
		10:00 p.m.	Retires with reading material prepared by staff for final reflection
		11:30 p.m.	Lights out