

WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT DO?

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Analyze the roles and responsibilities of the President
2. Categorize the different jobs of the President
3. Compose a letter to the President

TEKS: SS 3.17A, 18A, 4.21A&B, 5.16A, 24A&B; LA 3.20B; 4.18B; 5.18B

Materials Needed: "What Does the President Do All Day?" description cards (Attachment 2) . Children's book on the Presidency, such as: ***If I Were President***, (Catherine Stier, Albert Whiten and Co, 1999), *So You Want to be President?* (Judith St. George, Philomel, 2000) or websites, such as: congressforkids.net

pbskids.org/democracy/presforaday/index.html

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/national/president.html>

Vocabulary: election, presidency, qualifications, responsibilities

Teaching Strategy:

1. In preparation for this lesson, make several sets of "What does the President do all day?" (Attachment 2) description cards.
2. Ask student to brainstorm a list of things your school principal does all day to keep the school running smoothly. (This might be a good time to invite the principal to talk to the students about his/her responsibilities.)
3. Remind students that a leader of the school, business, or government has day-to-day responsibilities as well as long-term jobs such as making sure the students learn and the teachers teach.
4. If Internet connectivity is available, go to the interactive online activity "President for a Day!" from the PBS [Kids Democracy Project](#) . This is a simulation of a typical day as president, in which students make choices about which duties to perform. You can do this activity as a whole class using an LCD projector, in small groups around a few computers, or individually in a computer lab, depending on students' abilities and access to technology.
5. Ask students to list the jobs they heard in the online game (or children's book), such as meeting with foreign leaders, suggesting laws, hosting state dinners.
6. Display or copy Attachment 1, "The President's Major Roles" and determine student understanding of each.
7. Remind students that the President is busy all day with the business of running our country, just as a principal is busy all day running the school.

8. Divide the class into groups of 4. Each group will be given a set of "What Does the President Do All Day?" description cards. (Attachment 2)
9. Each group will analyze the different aspects of the Presidents life described on the cards and categorize them into at least three categories of their own choosing. Possible categories include those jobs dealing with laws, foreign policy, fun jobs, hardest jobs, perks, military, etc.
10. Ask each group to report on their groupings. Accept any logical categories.

Follow-up: Students will compose a letter to the President-elect, congratulating him on the successful election and mentioning one of the roles/responsibilities on which they wish him well. They could also include a statement answering the question, "Would you want to be President? Why or why not?"

Extension for G/T:

Students will analyze the roles of the President on Attachment 1 " The President's Major Roles" and evaluate which job has the most impact on the most people. Students should be able to defend their choice in a written paragraph. Allow students to discuss and compare their choices.

The President's Major Roles



Approve federal laws created by our lawmakers.

Lead the nation's people, making sure citizens obey the laws.

Help the Congress decide how the budget is spent

Manage the government, making sure that decisions and programs are being carried out effectively.

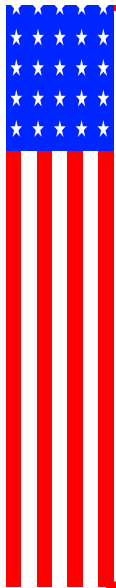
Appoint cabinet members (advisors) who head different departments (agriculture, defense, education, energy, housing, health, justice, transportation, treasury, and others).

Represent the U.S. in meetings with leaders of other countries

Signs treaties and other agreements (with approval from Congress) for the U.S.

Command the U.S. military, including declaring war (with approval from Congress)

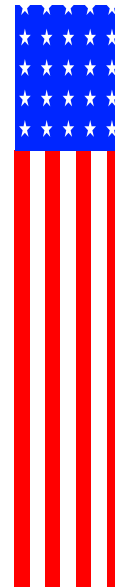
What Does the President Do All Day?



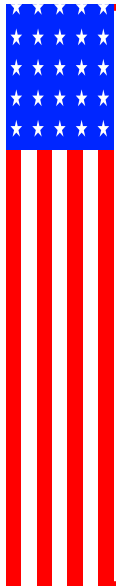
Commander
-in-chief of
the military



Presides
over special
events



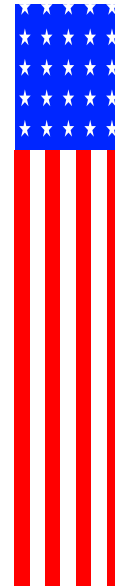
Chief
executive
(boss) of the
United
States
government



Responds
to natural
disasters



Meets with
foreign
leaders



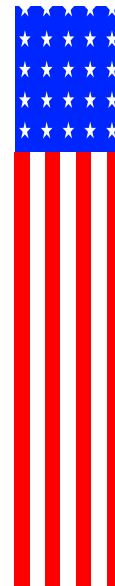
Appoints
judges and
other
officials, with
the approval
of our
lawmakers



Makes
agreements
with other
countries,
with the
approval of
our
lawmakers



Makes
speeches to
inform
people of
what is
going on in
our country



Suggests
laws for our
country

What Does the President Do All Day?



Approves laws passed by our lawmakers



Enjoys private White House entertainment such as movie theater or swimming pool



Hosts holiday events such as the White House Easter Egg Roll, lighting the Christmas Tree



Reads reports and articles in order to keep up with what's going on the world



Travels to interesting places on Air Force One, the President's plane



Meets with cabinet members for their advice about many topics



Hosts fancy dinners for foreign leaders



Gives medals to people who have done great things



Answers questions from reporters