



DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

Learning Objectives: The Students will...

1. Celebrate Constitution Week by learning about the duties and responsibilities of the President as outlined in the Constitution.
2. Analyze a list of duties to determine if they are actually mentioned in the Constitution.
3. List other duties usually associated with the office of the President.
4. Reflect on whether or not they would like to be President.

TEKS: 5.15A

Materials Needed: Copies of Article II of the U.S. Constitution, copies of the Duties of the President worksheet.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Have students brainstorm and share a list of duties and responsibilities of the President of the United States. Refrain from correcting students, but list all responses. Prompt them to think about foreign as well as domestic responsibilities.
2. If available, obtain a copy of *If I Were President* by Catherine Stier to read to the class. Other similar books might be available in the school library.
3. Refer to Article II of the Constitution, which lists the duties of the President. Read with the class, explaining each duty in more detail if needed.
4. Distribute one copy of the Duties of the President worksheet to each student. Students will identify which of the duties listed are actually included in the Constitution and which are not. If they are in the Constitution, students will identify which section that responsibility comes from.
5. Review after everyone has finished and correct any misconceptions.
6. Ask students to identify any duties/responsibilities that *should* be included but are not. Discuss why or why not the writers of the Constitution included those. Should the Constitution be amended to include those?
7. Students will reflect on the office of the Presidency by writing why they would or would not want to be the President and why.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students will analyze and evaluate which of the roles of the President is most important and explain why they think so. They will also look up what the perks of being President are, including residences, salary, and others.

Article II of the United States Constitution

Section 1

Presidential Oath of Office - "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States

He may require the Opinion, in writing, of the (head person) in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices

He shall have Power to grant Pardons for Offences against the United States

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent (approval) of the Senate, to make Treaties, if two thirds of the Senators present concur (agree).

He shall nominate, and with the Advice and Consent (approval) of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court

Section 3

He shall give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures (laws) as he shall judge necessary and expedient (beneficial);

He shall receive Ambassadors and other public (foreign) Ministers;

He shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed (carried out)

Article I of the United States Constitution

Section 7

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return (veto) it . . .to be reconsidered.

Name _____

Duties of the President

The duties of the President are outlined in the Constitution. Which of these “duties” are mentioned in the Constitution (and in which section) and which are not?

Duty/Responsibility	In Constitution? (Yes/No)	What Section?
1. Promise to protect the Constitution	_____	_____
2. Ask for opinions from the different departments of the government	_____	_____
3. Campaign for elections	_____	_____
4. Be protected by the Secret Service	_____	_____
5. Command the Army and Navy	_____	_____
6. Make treaties with other countries, if the Senate approves	_____	_____
7. Recommend people for judges	_____	_____
8. Declare war on another country	_____	_____
9. Visit other countries	_____	_____
10. Approve laws for our country that were made by the Congress	_____	_____
11. Grant a pardon for someone convicted of a crime, which gets him or her out of jail	_____	_____
12. Make sure laws are enforced	_____	_____
13. Live in the White House	_____	_____
14. Make a speech to the Congress to report on how things are going in our country	_____	_____
15. Suggest laws that should be passed	_____	_____
16. Receive foreign kings, queens, or rulers	_____	_____
17. Appoint ambassadors to foreign countries, if the Senate agrees	_____	_____
18. Throw out the first pitch of the baseball season	_____	_____
19. Answer questions from reporters	_____	_____
20. Host big dinners at the White House	_____	_____