

# The Presidency

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Summaries by Rm 25. November, 2016

## **Who's In Charge (pgs 2-3) by Jason, Thomas, Nicole**

In 1781 when the 13 North American Colonies gained independence, they created the Articles of Confederation, which gave the country "loose ties", and didn't know what to do until seven years later. After this time, they started The Constitutional Convention, which was a conference to see what they should do, and after two years, they created The Constitution, which provides a government of three branches. These branches are the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

In 1789, George Washington was elected by an unanimous vote to be the first president of the United States. He served for one term, and he wanted to step down, but his friends pushed him into doing one more term, which lasts four years.

There were many different ideas as to what others should call the president. One idea, which was George Washington's, was "His High Mightiness, the President of the United States and Protector of their Liberties", but they settled for "Mr. President."

### **Presidential Powers (pgs 4-5) by Gwen, Caedon, Ken**

- Constitution writers made sure not one or small group can rule over all
- 3 branches legislative (senate and house of representatives), judicial (Supreme court), and executive (president administers)
- Every power the president has is balanced by a different power held by congress or court

### **Constitution:**

- The President is the commander in chief of armed forces, but only the congress can declare war
- The president can veto laws that he does not agree with, however the congress can veto his veto if the senate agrees
  - Andrew Jackson was the first to veto a law that he didn't agree with. Before that, most vetoed laws were only because they violated rule in the constitution
  - Andrew Jackson vetoed more laws than all the presidents combined

### **Most Wartime:**

- Presidents gained additional powers
  - -Lincoln was able to send people to jail even if they had not committed a crime
- Congress can impeach the president if they are accused of a crime or abused power
  - Bill Clinton was impeached but had no trial

# What Does the President Do? (pgs 6-7) by: Will, Rianna, Amiri

## What Does a President Do?

President has 7 major jobs

### **1. Chief executive**

- elects the heads of executive branch departments (department of education or FBI etc.)
- sees that all laws passed by congress are obeyed

### **2. Head of State**

- symbol of the whole nation
- makes speeches at special occasions and presents awards
- throws out first ball of the baseball season

### **3. Commander and Chief of Armed Forces**

- makes decisions about defending country
- appoints military leaders
- chooses which weapons to use in battle
- can decide to send troops overseas without congress declaration of war (vietnam war and korean war)

### **4. Chief Diplomat**

- Makes decisions about nations dealings with other countries
- selects ambassadors
- sets foreign policy and meets with other leaders

### **5. Legislative Leader**

- sends bills to congress for consideration
- president gives state of the union speech every january

### **6. Party Leader**

- helps decide party's position on issues
- helps other candidates campaign

### **7. Chief Guardian of the Economy**

- meets with business leaders and economic providers
- helps provide more jobs
- keeps prices at acceptable levels
- helps economy prosper

## **Running for President (pgs 8-9) by Michael Moffatt, Michael Huh, Max Behl**

- The constitution states that if you run for president you must be a natural born citizen for at least 14 years and you must be 35 or over in age.

### **Electoral College**

- Both the pres. and vice pres. are chosen by electors selected by the different states.
- Each state gets the same amount of electoral votes as members in congress it has.
- In most states the electors vote for candidates who received the most popular votes in the state.
- Because more heavily populated states get more electoral votes than smaller states, the most popular candidate nationally may not get the most electoral votes.

### **Election of President**

- The election of the prez. begins with the nomination of a candidate by each of the major political parties.

### **After the Convention**

- After the convention, the candidates travel around the country trying to convince voters to vote for them.
- The money for these trips usually comes from donations from voters and businesses.

### **History**

- 9 times in U.S. history a president has died or left office before his presidency if over and in the situation the vice president becomes the president.

## The Executive Branch (pgs 12-13) by Aiden, Parth, Taika

- Vice President doesn't do much
  - Votes if there's a tie
  - Takes over if President dies, gets impeached, or leaves
- The President isn't in charge of the Executive Branch, they appoint people to be in charge
- The Executive Branch is in charge of agencies and departments, like the secretary of defence, the park rangers in national parks, and many others
  - Department of the Interior is responsible for the public lands, the Bureau of Indian Affairs oversees the management of 55.7 million acres of land that's held in trust for the American Indians and Native Alaskans. *Clearly working well in North Dakota.*
  - The Environmental Protection Agency "protects the human health and the environment". It also does research, publishes info, and promotes environmental education.
  - The Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI)'s main mission is to protect and defend the United States against terrorists and foreign intelligence threats.

## **The President's Home (pgs 14-15) by Ayden, Neha, Andre**

### **The White House**

1. 1812 Burnt the white house
2. Dolly the first lady got all of the values out of the white house before the British came.
3. After the British burnt the White house down the rebuild it and painted it white.
4. There are a green red and blue rooms for parties.
5. Fun Fact Abigail Adam hung her cloth in the East room.
6. The first Lady took take place in politics. Eleanor Roosevelt Wrote Newspaper and held presconference.
7. Washington never lived in the White house.
8. The Capital in Washington election was New York and Philadelphia.
9. The New Capital became Washington. D.C because of in return for madison agreeing that the federal governmant would take on the states debt. Hamilton agreed that the capitol could be in the south.
10. The children who lived in the white house were followed rather closely by the media.

**A Day in the Life of the President (pgs 16-17) by Taran, Jacob, Maya, Karina**

- Presidents can be in the Oval Office as early as 7:00 am
- The President has two different ways of air travel, a helicopter for short distance travels and a plane called Air Force 1 that is used for longer distance like other countries.
- The White House has its own dental clinic, doctors office, and barber's shop
- The White House has a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, and bowling lane
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