

# Running the Government

Read how the executive branch is organized and carries out federal law.

**SS.7.CG.3.8** "Explain the structure, functions, and processes of the executive branch of government."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that show the executive branch's structure, circle details that show its functions, and number the steps in each process. These marks will help you explain how the branch works.

### From Law to Action

- ① The executive branch carries out federal laws. The president leads this branch and serves as commander in chief of the armed forces. The vice president may advise the president and becomes president upon the president's death, resignation, or removal. Under constitutional inability procedures, the vice president serves as Acting President. The president chooses leaders for executive departments and many agencies. These choices are called nominations. For many major positions, including Cabinet secretaries, the Senate must approve the nominee before that person begins the job. This shared step limits presidential appointment power.
- ② Fifteen executive departments, such as the Department of State and the Department of Education, help organize the branch's work. The heads of these departments make up the Cabinet, which advises the president. Other agencies handle specialized duties. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinates federal disaster response, while the Food and Drug Administration protects public health by checking the safety of foods and medicines. Workers in departments and agencies turn broad laws into daily action.
- ③ Executive branch work follows several processes. After Congress passes a bill and the president signs it, departments and agencies carry out the new law. Congress may also give agencies authority to make detailed regulations. Before a regulation takes effect, an agency often publishes a proposal and accepts public comments. The president can issue an executive order to direct executive branch officials, but an order cannot override the Constitution or a law passed by Congress. Federal courts can decide whether an executive action is lawful.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What must happen after the president nominates a Cabinet secretary before that person can begin the job?

**2** Choose one agency named in the passage. What specialized duty does it perform?

**3** Describe the process an agency often follows before a new regulation takes effect.

**4** Identify two limits on an executive order from the passage.

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

A new federal law directs the executive branch to reduce plastic waste in rivers. Write 4 or 5 sentences explaining how the president and an executive agency could carry out the law. Include one regulation process and one check on executive power.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline details that show the executive branch's structure, circle details that show its functions, and number the steps in each process. These marks will help you explain how the branch works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What must happen after the president nominates a Cabinet secretary before that person can begin the job? | <b>The Senate must approve the nominee.</b>                                                                                                                  |
| 2 | Choose one agency named in the passage. What specialized duty does it perform?                           | <b>FEMA coordinates federal disaster response, or the FDA protects public health by checking the safety of foods and medicines.</b>                          |
| 3 | Describe the process an agency often follows before a new regulation takes effect.                       | <b>The agency publishes a proposal and accepts public comments before the regulation takes effect.</b>                                                       |
| 4 | Identify two limits on an executive order from the passage.                                              | <b>An executive order cannot override the Constitution or a law passed by Congress, and federal courts can decide whether an executive action is lawful.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

After Congress passes the plastic-waste law, the president signs it, and the Environmental Protection Agency begins carrying it out. The president may direct executive officials to focus on the law. The agency can propose detailed regulations and accept public comments before the rules take effect. A court can review an executive action, and the action cannot override the Constitution or the law.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage questions. For the open response, accept a logical explanation that includes the president, an executive agency, a regulation process, and a valid constitutional, congressional, or judicial check.