

Who Runs Georgia?

Analyze how Georgia's executive branch carries out laws and shares power.

SS8CG3 "Analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells what an executive official or agency does. Circle words or phrases that show how voters or another branch shares or limits executive power.

Carrying Out Georgia Laws

- ① Georgia's executive branch carries out state laws and manages many daily services. Voters elect the governor to a four-year term. A governor must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for 15 years, and a Georgia resident for six years. The governor proposes a budget, signs or vetoes bills passed by the General Assembly, appoints many agency leaders, and can call the legislature into special session. These powers let one leader guide state priorities while working with other branches.
- ② Georgia voters also elect a lieutenant governor separately from the governor. The lieutenant governor serves four years, must meet the same age, citizenship, and residency requirements as the governor, and presides over the state Senate. If the governor's office becomes vacant, the lieutenant governor becomes governor. Six other statewide constitutional officers lead executive duties. For example, the secretary of state handles elections and business, the attorney general represents the state in legal matters, the school superintendent oversees public education, and the agriculture commissioner supports farming and food safety.
- ③ Executive agencies turn broad laws into action. The Georgia Department of Transportation maintains state roads, while the Department of Natural Resources protects parks and wildlife. Agency workers inspect, issue licenses, provide services, and enforce rules authorized by law. The governor cannot make laws alone. The General Assembly writes laws and controls funding, and courts can review executive actions. Because Georgia voters choose several executive officials independently, responsibility for executive work is shared rather than held entirely by the governor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How can the governor influence both a bill and the state's priorities?

2 Compare the governor and lieutenant governor. State one role of each official, then explain what happens if the governor's office becomes vacant.

3 Why is executive power in Georgia shared instead of held only by the governor? Use two details from the passage.

4 Choose one named executive agency from the passage. What does it do, and how does that work carry out state laws?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A new Georgia law requires safer food inspections. Write 3 to 4 sentences explaining how the executive branch could put the law into action. Name one executive official or agency from the passage, describe two actions, and explain one way voters or another branch affects accountability.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells what an executive official or agency does. Circle words or phrases that show how voters or another branch shares or limits executive power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can the governor influence both a bill and the state's priorities?	The governor can sign or veto a bill and can propose a budget, appoint agency leaders, and call a special session.
2	Compare the governor and lieutenant governor. State one role of each official, then explain what happens if the governor's office becomes vacant.	The governor can sign or veto bills and appoint many agency leaders. The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate. If the governor's office becomes vacant, the lieutenant governor becomes governor.
3	Why is executive power in Georgia shared instead of held only by the governor? Use two details from the passage.	Voters independently elect several executive officials, including the lieutenant governor and constitutional officers. The General Assembly writes laws and controls funding, and courts can review executive actions.
4	Choose one named executive agency from the passage. What does it do, and how does that work carry out state laws?	Answers may name the Georgia Department of Transportation, which maintains state roads, or the Department of Natural Resources, which protects parks and wildlife. These actions put laws and state services into practice.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the General Assembly passes a food-safety law, the agriculture commissioner could direct agency workers to inspect food businesses and enforce the new rules. The commissioner could also provide food-safety services to Georgia farmers and consumers. The General Assembly affects this work by writing the law and controlling funding. Voters can hold the commissioner accountable because they elect that statewide official.

Accept equivalent descriptions of executive duties that are supported by the passage. For the open response, require a named official or agency, two plausible executive actions, and an accurate explanation of accountability through voters, the General Assembly, or courts.