Who Does What?

Trace the offices that carry out federal law

9-12.GOV.36 "Identify major departments of the executive branch, including cabinet and non-cabinet level departments and agencies, along with the development and growth of federal administrative state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline cabinet departments, circle agencies outside cabinet departments, and number the dated events that show how the executive branch grew.

After the Storm

1. When a storm knocks out power and damages homes, federal offices may join local responders. The executive branch includes cabinet departments, whose secretaries lead major areas of policy and advise the president. The Department of Homeland Security is one such department. Its Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, coordinates federal disaster assistance. FEMA is an agency within the department, not a separate cabinet department. The Department of the Treasury is another cabinet department, responsible for federal finances. Identifying who answers to whom matters: a cabinet department can contain smaller agencies with specialized jobs.

2. Not every federal agency sits inside a cabinet department. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is a non-cabinet executive agency that works on pollution and environmental protection. The Federal Trade Commission, or FTC, is an independent regulatory agency that protects consumers and promotes competition. After a storm, EPA staff might help assess contaminated water, while the FTC could act against sellers making deceptive claims about water filters. Neither agency is a cabinet department, although both carry out federal law in the executive branch. Their different jobs show why the name of an office alone does not reveal its place in government.

3. The federal administrative state is the network of departments and agencies that puts laws into action. In 1789, Congress created the Departments of State, Treasury, and War for the new government. As the country and federal responsibilities grew, Congress created new offices to address additional problems. Congress established the FTC in 1914, and President Richard Nixon created the EPA in 1970 under a reorganization plan authorized by Congress. Congress created the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, and it began operating in 2003. This growth reflects changing public needs, not a shift of these offices into the legislative branch.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two cabinet departments named in the passage. How is FEMA connected to one of them?

2. Which two agencies in the passage operate outside cabinet departments? Identify a different job for each.

3. Name one department created in 1789 and two offices created later. What does their creation over time show?

4. After the storm, which office might assess contaminated water, and which might act against deceptive water-filter claims? Are either of these offices cabinet departments?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a nationwide problem not named in the passage. In four sentences, propose a new agency within a named cabinet department or a new non-cabinet agency, compare its place in government with one office in the passage, and explain how your proposal illustrates growth of the administrative state.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does What?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline cabinet departments, circle agencies outside cabinet departments, and number the dated events that show how the executive branch grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two cabinet departments named in the passage. How is FEMA connected to one of them?	**The Departments of Homeland Security and the Treasury are cabinet departments. FEMA is an agency within the Department of Homeland Security.**
2	Which two agencies in the passage operate outside cabinet departments? Identify a different job for each.	**The EPA works on pollution and environmental protection. The FTC protects consumers and promotes competition.**
3	Name one department created in 1789 and two offices created later. What does their creation over time show?	**Accept State, Treasury, or War for 1789. Later examples include the FTC, EPA, and Department of Homeland Security. Their creation shows the growth of federal administration as responsibilities changed.**
4	After the storm, which office might assess contaminated water, and which might act against deceptive water-filter claims? Are either of these offices cabinet departments?	**The EPA might assess the water, and the FTC might act against deceptive claims. Neither is a cabinet department.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

AI voice scams can trick people into sending money to impostors. Congress could create a non-cabinet executive agency to investigate these scams and enforce new consumer protection laws. Like the FTC, this agency would operate outside a cabinet department, but it would focus on synthetic voices. Creating it would expand the administrative state in response to a new nationwide problem.

Accept other accurate offices and dates from the passage where the question allows a choice. For Part 3, check that the proposed agency has a clear organizational place and that the comparison and explanation of growth are accurate.