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## Warmup

## How much power should the President have?

A. What does the word power mean to you? Fill in the concept web below to clarify your thinking.

Then circle any of the powers you listed that you think a U.S. President should have.

B. Where would you place an ideal U.S. President on a scale of power?

Explain your answer.
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## Exploration

## I. Article II, Growth of Presidential Power

## Find Out

A. Read Article II of the Constitution. Then make a list of the most important powers that the Constitution gives to the President.
1.
2.
3.
4.
5. $\qquad$
B. The power of the President has greatly increased since the Constitution was written. Find two examples of increases in the power of the President in your print or online textbook or other sources. Then, based on your reading of the Constitution and your own observations, add two more examples.

Example $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$
C. Review the reasons for the growth of presidential power and list them below. Then circle the most important reason and explain your choice.
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## Q What Do You Think?

D. Has the power of the President grown too much? Choose an example from the news or from history where people disagree about whether the President overstepped his or her authority. Briefly explain how the President used his or her power. Then comment on whether the amount of power that the President had was appropriate for the circumstances. (Hint: Issues of presidential authority often arise in times of war or other national crisis.)
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## II. Executive Powers

## $\rightarrow$ Find Out

A. Review the President's executive powers. Then define them and give an example of each.

Ordinance Power
Definition $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$

Appointment Power
Definition $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$

Removal Power
Definition $\qquad$
Example $\qquad$

## Q What Do You Think?

B. Which of the powers listed above is the most important? Explain.
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## Find Out

C. Review the case of U.S. v. Nixon and the Supreme Court's decision in the case. Under what conditions should a President be allowed to claim executive privilege? Explain.
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## III. Executive, Diplomatic, Military, and Legislative Powers

## $\rightarrow$ Find Out

A. Review the roles of the President and his or her powers. Then fill in the chart below.

| Roles of the <br> President | Presidential Powers |
| :--- | :--- |
| Chief Executive | power to execute and enforce federal laws |
| Chief Diplomat | - |
| Commander <br> in Chief |  |
| Chief Legislator |  |

## (3) What Do You Think?

B. Of the powers listed above, which is the most essential? Why?
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## Find Out

C. The Framers placed checks on the President's power. Other limits have developed over time. Using your online or print textbook and your knowledge of government, briefly describe each limit and its effect.

| Limits | Effects |
| :--- | :--- |
| Public <br> Opinion | an unpopular President lacks influence; the public can vote the <br> President out of office |
| International <br> Opinion | - |
| Term Limits | - |
| Party System | - |
| Legislative <br> Checks | - |
| Judicial <br> Checks |  |
| Bureaucracy |  |

## Q What Do You Think?

D. Return to the scale of power that you filled in at the beginning of the lesson. With the additional information you have gathered, would you change your rating of where you would place an ideal President on the scale? Explain.
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Apply What You've Learned Activity
What do people in your community think about the power of the President? Use this worksheet to answer the Apply What You've Learned questions in your print or online textbook. Interview at least 10 voters (Independent, Republican, and Democratic) in your community. Use the table below to summarize the responses you receive.

| Over the past decade, do <br> you think the President <br> overstepped his authority? <br> If so, when? | - |
| :--- | :--- |
| Over the past decade, do <br> you think the President <br> needed more authority? <br> If so, when? | - |

A. With which opinions do you most agree or disagree? Explain.
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B. Did your opinions change as a result of the interviews you conducted? Explain.
C. Give two examples of events or situations that could change your opinion.
1.
2. $\qquad$
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## Essay

## How much power should the President have?

In 1789, the new United States government began an experiment in constitutional democracy-with a President at its helm. They looked to the future full of hope and fear. As you read the quotations about the presidency below, consider the concerns of the Framers and the reasons for their fear.

The first man at the helm will be a good one. Nobody knows what sort may come afterwards . . . the executive will be increasing here, as elsewhere, till it ends in monarchy.

- Benjamin Franklin

Make him too weak-the legislature will usurp his power.
Make him too strong-he will usurp the legislature.

- Gouveneur Morris


## O What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, How much power should the President have? Consider your thoughts on the quotations above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have done in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.

## Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you
think about the Unit 4 Essential Question:
What makes a good President?

