

# CHAPTER 15

## Government at Work: The Bureaucracy

### Warmup



### Is the bureaucracy essential to good government?

- A.** From regulations on working an after-school job to the mail that is delivered to your home every day, the activities of the federal bureaucracy affect your life on a daily basis. List five ways in which you come in contact with elements of the federal bureaucracy between the time you wake up in the morning until you leave the house for school.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- B.** Using your list above, answer the following questions:

- 1.** Is it possible for you to leave your home without coming into contact with any of these governmental influences? Why or why not?

---



---

- 2.** Select one item from your list and describe two benefits and two drawbacks of the government's involvement in that element of your morning routine?

---



---



---



---

- 3.** Do the benefits of the government's involvement outweigh the drawbacks? Why or why not?

---



---



---



# Exploration

## I. The Federal Bureaucracy

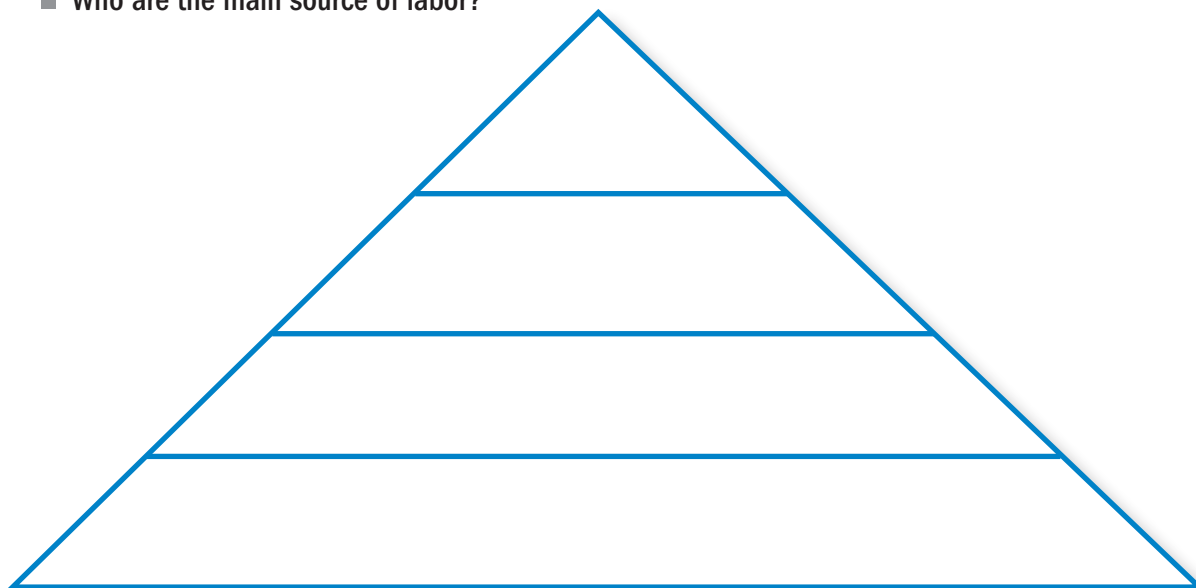
### ➔ Find Out

- A.** Using your print or online textbook or other sources, complete the table below showing the features of a bureaucracy and the benefits of each feature.

Features of a Bureaucracy	Benefits of a Bureaucracy
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- B.** A bureaucracy's organizational chart is shaped like a pyramid, with more workers at the bottom than at the top. Most organizations are structured in this manner. Choose an organization with which you are familiar, for example, your school, a school club, a sports team, your employer, or your local government. Create an organizational chart for the group you selected. To help you determine where you should place each unit within the hierarchy, keep in mind the following:

- Who is the final decision maker?
- Who manages the organization?
- Who are the main source of labor?



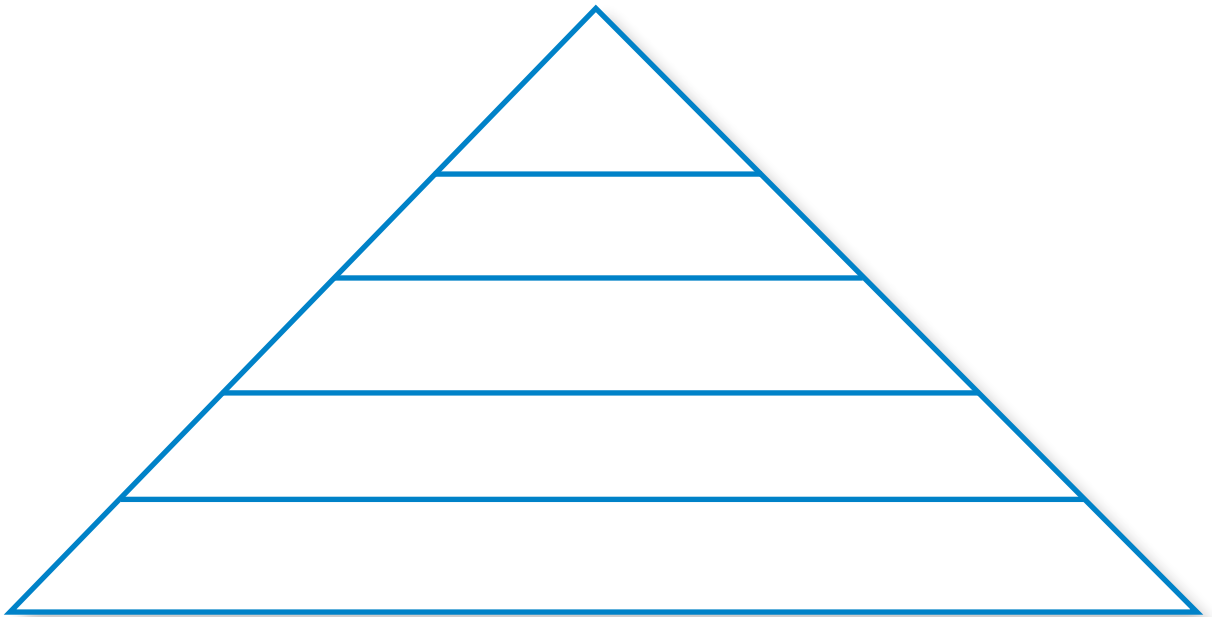


## ➔ Find Out

**C.** In a complex organization such as the Federal Government, there are many bureaucracies within bureaucracies. Use the chart below to outline a possible structure for the Department of Defense. Choose the various levels from the list below.

- Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Secretary of Defense
- President of the United States
- Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force

### The Defense Department



## 👤 What Do You Think?

**D.** Consider the organizational charts you have created for Parts B and C above. In addition to the benefits of this type of organization listed in Part A, what other benefits of a bureaucracy are illustrated by your charts?

---



---



---



---



---



---



## II. Executive Office of the President

### ➔ Find Out

**A.** Review the various agencies and offices that make up the Executive Office of the President in your print or online textbook or other sources, and then complete the outline.

#### I. Executive Office of the President

##### A. White House Office

1. Nerve center of the executive branch
2. Includes the President's inner circle of advisors
3. Housed in the West Wing of the White House

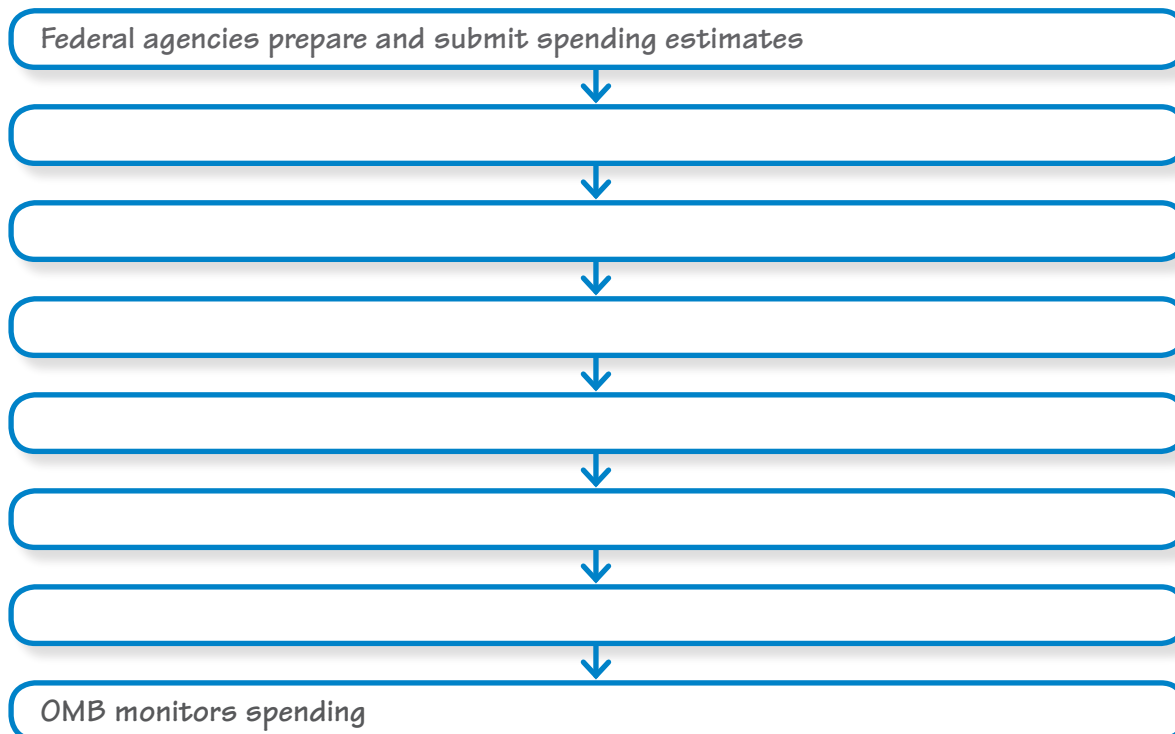
##### B. National Security Council

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

##### C. Office of Management and Budget

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Use your print or online textbook or other sources to learn the steps involved in creating a budget for the Federal Government. Then complete the flowchart below.





**What Do You Think?**

- C.** Choose one of the agencies of the Executive Office of the President and explain how the basic features of a bureaucracy are reflected in it.

---

---

---

---

---

### III. The Executive Departments

**Find Out**

- A.** Use your print or online textbook or other sources to find out which three executive departments were established in 1789. List the departments below with a brief description of the work they do.

The First Executive Departments	Description

**What Do You Think?**

- B.** Why do you think these three departments were set up before all others? What other important position was created in 1789?

---

---

---

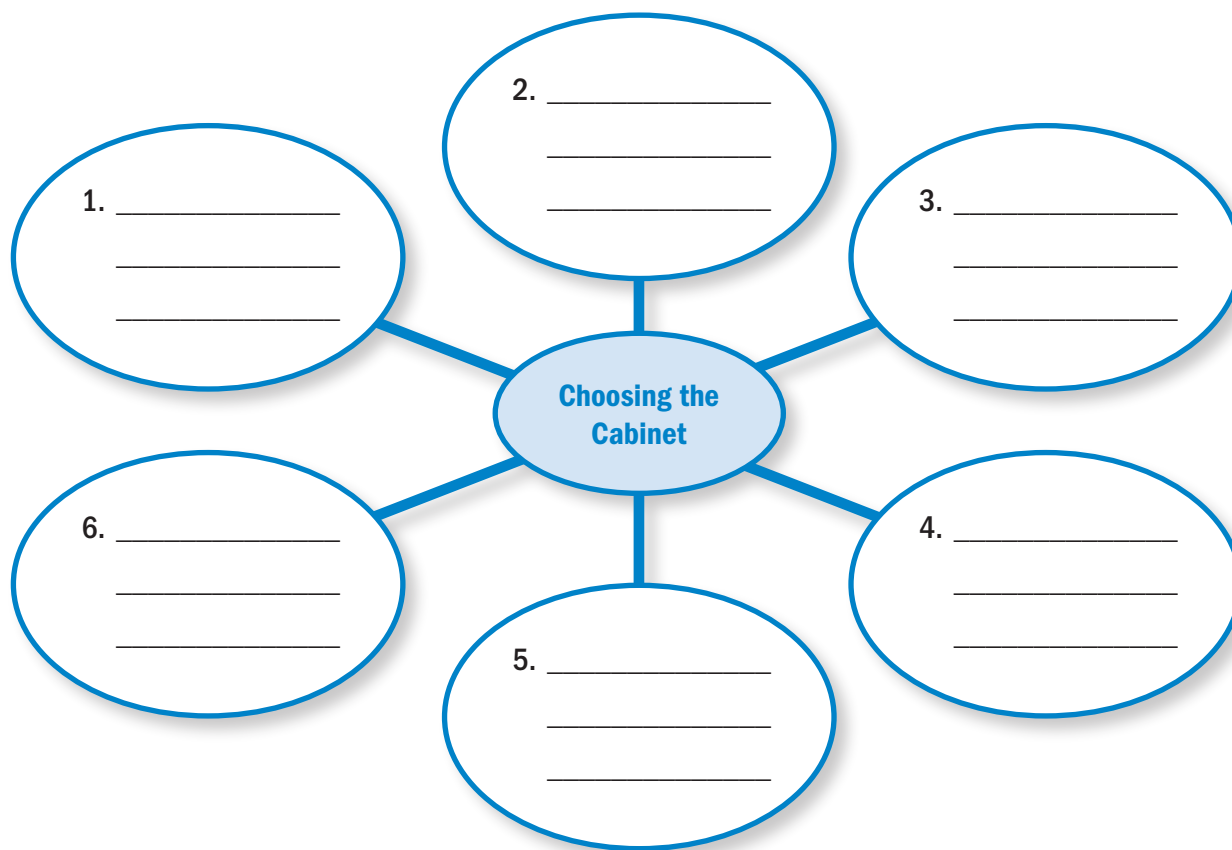
---

---



## ➔ Find Out

**C.** What factors does the President consider when choosing Cabinet members? Use the web diagram below to list these factors.



## 👤 What Do You Think?

**D.** Which of these factors do you find to be most important? Using the numbers from Part C, place each in the appropriate place on the scale below, then explain your answer on another sheet of paper.



## 👤 What Do You Think?

**E.** What are two main responsibilities of a Cabinet member? Which do you think is each member's major focus? Why?

---



---



---



## IV. Independent Agencies

### ➔ Find Out

- A.** Review the various types of independent agencies. Then complete the chart below, filling in information for the types of agencies, their defining characteristics, and some examples of each.

Independent Agencies		
Type	Defining Characteristics	Examples
independent executive agencies		

- B.** Use your print or online textbook or other sources to read about the civil service system in the 1800s compared with that system today. Use the following space to describe how the system changed with the passage of the Pendleton Act.

Before



Pendleton Act of 1883

After

### 👤 What Do You Think?

- C.** The civil service system is part of the executive branch bureaucracy. Do you think this segment of the bureaucracy contributes to good government? Explain your answer.



## Apply What You've Learned Activity

What federal agencies are operating in your area? What is the nature of their work? Use this worksheet to answer the Apply What You've Learned questions in your print or online textbook. Interview a federal worker and use the table below to summarize the responses you receive.

What department is responsible for the work of your agency?

\_\_\_\_\_

In which Cabinet department is your agency located?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is it one of the larger agencies of that department?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your agency's key responsibilities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How and by whom are the agency's decisions made?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the organizational structure of your agency is efficient?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Could it be improved?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, how?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A.** Did anything you learned during the interview surprise you? If so, describe what it was and explain why it was unexpected.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Based on your interview, on a separate sheet of paper write a brief summary of how you think the operation of this federal agency could be improved.

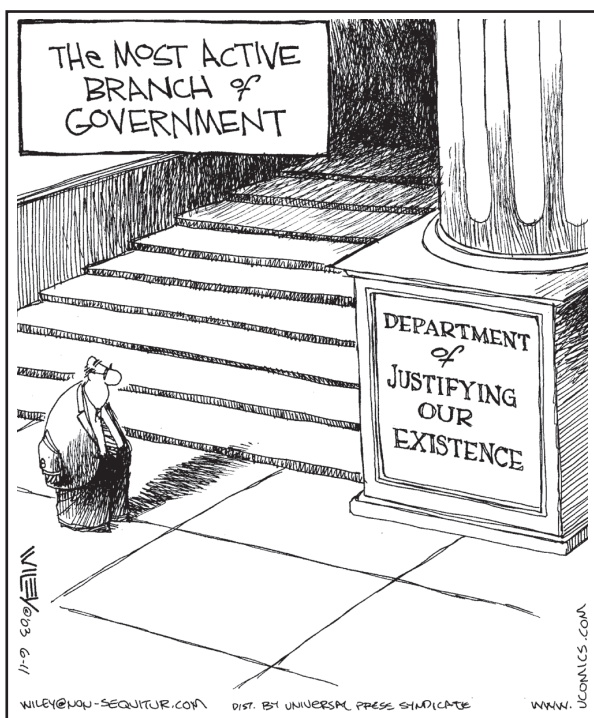


## Essay



### Is the bureaucracy essential to good government?

The federal bureaucracy has gone through a variety of changes since its creation. It has also borne the burden of many jokes and criticisms. However, considering the size of the nation and the expectations of Americans, the Federal Government does accomplish its work. As you review the sources about the federal bureaucracy below, keep in mind the purpose of government.



**Better the occasional faults of a Government that lives in a spirit of charity than the constant omission of a Government frozen in the ice of its own indifference.**

— President Franklin Roosevelt, 1936

**The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'**

— President Ronald Reagan, 1986



### What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **Is the bureaucracy essential to good government?** Consider your thoughts on the quotations and political cartoon 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?**