

Executive Branch Vocabulary

1. Presidential succession-the order of presidential succession determines who will head the executive branch if the president dies
2. State of the Union Address-sets forth the programs and policies the president wants Congress to put into effect as laws
3. foreign policy-the government's plan to deal with other countries
4. diplomacy- the process of conducting relations with other countries
5. treaties- a formal agreement between two countries
6. reprieve- the president has the power to grant reprieves to postpone the carrying out of someone's sentence.
7. pardon- the president has the power to grant pardons which forgive someone of a crime and eliminate the punishment for it.
8. commutation- the president has the power of commutation, reducing a person's sentence
9. secretary-title of most cabinet members- the title of most cabinet members
10. attorney general-head of the Department of Justice
11. ambassadors- the highest ranking U.S. representatives in foreign countries
12. embassy- the official residence and office of an ambassador in a foreign country
13. consul- Department of State workers who represent U.S. commercial interests in foreign countries
14. consulate- can be found in most large foreign cities
15. passport- the Department of State issues passports that allows citizens to travel abroad
16. visas- the Department of State issues visas that allow foreigners to come to the United States
17. Joint Chiefs of Staff- high ranking military officers who advise the president
18. independent agencies- created to perform specialized jobs
19. regulatory commissions- can make rules and bring violators to court

20. bureaucracy- all of the employees of independent agencies and the executive departments. (red tape)
21. popular vote-the votes cast by citizens in a presidential election
22. electoral college-group of electors that casts the official votes that elect the president and vice president
23. primary-an election in which the voters of various parties choose candidates to run for office in the general election
24. caucus-meetings of party leaders to determine party policy or to choose the party's candidate for public office
25. canvassing- going through a neighborhood asking for votes or taking a poll