



# The President Wears Seven Hats

The U.S. President has the most powerful job in the world. It's like working seven jobs at once—some people say he wears seven hats. Some of the President's powers, or jobs, are listed in the U.S. Constitution. Other powers are implied (suggested as necessary) by U.S. laws, court decisions, or actions of earlier Presidents.

See if you can match each of the President's jobs, described below at left, with a real President's action, listed below in the column at right.

## Jobs of the President

- 1. Chief Executive.** The President enforces U.S. laws, creates policies, hires and fires officials within the executive branch, and appoints federal (national) judges. Congress must approve many appointments, including Cabinet Secretaries and Supreme Court Justices.
- 2. Commander in Chief.** The Constitution makes the President head of the nation's military forces. Only Congress can declare war, but recent Presidents have sent troops into combat without a formal declaration.
- 3. Head of state.** The President is a living symbol of the U.S. This job includes mostly ceremonial duties, such as welcoming foreign leaders, congratulating famous Americans, and promoting U.S. traditions.
- 4. Director of foreign policy.** The Constitution says that only the President can make treaties with other countries (although the Senate must approve them). The President, working with the Secretary of State, shapes policies for dealing with other countries.
- 5. Head of political party.** The President is head of his political party. He uses his influence to back party candidates, raise money for campaigns, and appoint party officials.
- 6. Economic guardian.** The President is expected to keep the U.S. economy running smoothly. He plans the federal government's budget, which Congress modifies and sends to the President for approval. The President also appoints the head of the Federal Reserve, which controls the amount of money circulating in the U.S. economy.
- 7. Legislative leader.** Only Congress can pass legislation. But the Constitution gives the President the power to sign acts of Congress into law or to veto (reject) any law. Congress can override the veto by a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate.



## Presidential Actions

- A.** President Richard M. Nixon visits China to improve relations with that country.
- B.** President Bill Clinton balances the federal budget.
- C.** President Ronald Reagan campaigns for fellow Republicans running for Congress.
- D.** President George H.W. Bush entertains the Queen of England at the White House.
- E.** President John F. Kennedy issues an Executive Order to launch the Peace Corps.
- F.** President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- G.** President George W. Bush sends U.S. combat troops to Iraq.