**Vocabulary Activity 7**

**The President and the Executive Branch**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write true or false on the line before each definition below. If the statement is false, write the word that matches the definition in the blank at the end of the statement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ambassador</th>
<th>electors</th>
<th>reprieve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amnesty</td>
<td>executive agreement</td>
<td>spoils system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cabinet</td>
<td>executive order</td>
<td>trade sanction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral College</td>
<td>national security</td>
<td>treaty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. __________ Americans vote for their president and vice president indirectly through the **Electoral College**. __________

2. __________ Individual voters in the Electoral College are called **collegians**. __________

3. __________ A president’s **executive order** has the force of law. __________

4. __________ A president can bypass the need for the Senate to approve a treaty through an **executive agreement**. __________

5. __________ A **pardon** is an order to delay a person’s punishment until a higher court can review the case. __________

6. __________ A pardon toward a group of people is called **amnesty**. __________

7. __________ A formal agreement between two or more countries is called a **trade sanction**. __________

8. __________ An **ambassador** is a political appointee who represents the United States in a foreign country. __________

9. __________ **National security** is a basic goal of American foreign policy. __________

10. __________ The United States Postal Service is an example of a **government corporation**. __________

11. __________ The Civil Service Reform Act of 1883 was an attempt to end the corrupt **spoils system**. __________
Presidential Succession

DIRECTIONS: Study the order of succession to the presidency according to the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 below. The cabinet members are ordered in the line of succession according to the date their offices were established. Complete the chart below by filling in the blanks with the appropriate successor to the presidency. Then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

The Sequence of Presidential Succession*

1. Vice President
2. Speaker of the House
3. President Pro Tempore of the Senate
4. Secretary of State
5. Secretary of the Treasury
6. Secretary of the Defense
7. Attorney General
8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Secretary of Commerce
11. Secretary of Labor
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14. Secretary of Transportation
15. Secretary of Energy
16. Secretary of Education
17. Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs

*Any successor to the presidency must meet the requirements for the office as established in the Constitution.

1. Which branch of government has no successors to the presidency?
2. What determined the order in which the cabinet members would succeed to the office of president?

3. CRITICAL THINKING What do the first three successors to the presidency have in common that is different than all of the other successors?

4. CRITICAL THINKING What is the role of the group of advisers who make up the presidential cabinet?
The President and Vice President

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Describing** Explain how the Electoral College works.

2. **Defining** What is a presidential elector?

3. **Identifying** How many years is a presidential term?

4. **Identifying** What is the maximum number of years that a U.S. president can serve in office?

5. **Summarizing** What happens if a president dies or leaves office?

6. **Explaining** What did the Presidential Succession Act do?

7. **Defining** What was the purpose of the Twenty-fifth Amendment?
The President’s Job

**Reading Tip**

You will become a better reader if you do a preview of the material before you read. This means that you take about 60 seconds to look over the title, headings, and pictures, and then skim the passage to find the main idea and the purpose of the writing.

**DIRECTIONS:** Write an answer to each question in the space provided.

1. **Summarizing** List the president’s powers as described in the Constitution.

2. **Evaluating** What is the importance of the State of the Union address?

3. **Defining** What is an executive order?

4. **Comparing** What is the difference between a pardon and amnesty?

5. **Explaining** What tasks does the president perform as the commander in chief?

6. **Identifying** Who has the power to make war?

7. **Summarizing** What duties does the president perform as head of state?

8. **Defining** What is a president’s legislative program?
Making Foreign Policy

Read at different speeds. If you find the material easy to understand, you should read a little faster. If the text is difficult, slow down to understand what you read.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question in the space provided.

1. **Defining** What is foreign policy?

2. **Identifying** What is the basic goal of American foreign policy?

3. **Explaining** Why is international trade important to the United States?

4. **Defining** What are treaties?

5. **Evaluating** Why would the president refuse to recognize another country’s government?

6. **Identifying** What are some punishing tools sometimes placed on international trade?

7. **Concluding** What foreign policy tools does the president have to deal with international terrorism?
Presidential Advisers and Executive Agencies

**DIRECTIONS:** Write an answer to each question in the space provided.

1. **Identifying** What are some of the duties of the employees of the EOP?

2. **Summarizing** What are the most important parts of the EOP?

3. **Explaining** Why did President George W. Bush create the Office of Homeland Security?

4. **Identifying** What are the duties of a president’s chief of staff?

5. **Summarizing** What is the role of the cabinet?

6. **Recalling** When does the cabinet meet?

7. **Identifying** Give an example of each of the three types of independent agencies: executive agencies, government corporations, and regulatory commissions.

8. **Describing** What is the purpose of regulatory commissions?