

Guided Reading Activity

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Structure and Functions of the Executive Branch

Lesson 1 *The Cabinet and Executive Office of the President*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. The Cabinet

- A. The cabinet is made up of the _____ president, the _____ of the executive departments, and other top government officials.
- B. The president-elect considers a candidate's _____ in the particular policy area along with general _____ and supervisory experience.
- C. The president reserves some cabinet positions for loyal supporters and satisfies powerful _____ while assembling a cabinet with demographic _____.
- D. Appointments are not automatic because the _____ gives the _____ the power to confirm or reject a president's choice for cabinet secretary.
- E. In 1926 the Supreme Court clarified the right of a president to _____ a cabinet member or any other executive employee without congressional _____.
- F. A cabinet meets when called by the _____, and its role in decision making depends entirely on the wishes of the _____.
- G. The loyalties of cabinet secretaries are divided among the president who appointed them, the long-term officials in their own department, members of _____, and _____ groups.

II. The Executive Office of the President

- A. The Reorganization Act of 1939 created the _____ to assist the president following the dramatic growth of the government.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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- B. The _____ (OMB) prepares the national budget for the president to present to Congress.
- C. The _____ (NSC), directed by the National Security _____, advises the president and coordinates American military and foreign policy.
- D. The _____ assesses the nation's economic health and tries to predict future economic conditions.
- E. The _____, a unit of the EOP, is a set of key advisers and assistants for the president who do not require Senate confirmation to their posts.
- F. The White House _____ oversees the work and operations of the White House and the EOP, while the _____ handles press relations.
- G. Presidents sometimes claim the right of _____ and refuse to provide documents or other records to the legislative and judicial branches.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How is the role of a cabinet secretary similar to and different from the role of a White House Office staff member?
