

Who's In Charge?



Our national government is divided into three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. The President is the head of the Executive Branch. The Vice President and Cabinet members are also part of the Executive Branch. The President appoints the Cabinet members, who head the 14 major departments of the government. Cabinet members give advice to the President. Last week President Bush created a new Cabinet-level position, Director of Homeland Security. Bush appointed former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to this position. To read more about Ridge, go to www.timeforkids.com

Read the chart to find out more about the duties of some members of the Executive Branch. Then answer the questions.

PRESIDENT

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| George W. Bush | Duties include: Suggests, signs and carries out laws; can veto bills; leads the armed forces; makes treaties with other nations; appoints or removes Cabinet officials |
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VICE PRESIDENT

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| Dick Cheney | Duties include: Leads the U.S. Senate; becomes acting President if the President is unable to perform his duties |
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Cabinet (Some of the 14 departments)

| SECRETARY OF DEFENSE | SECRETARY OF STATE | ATTORNEY GENERAL | SECRETARY OF EDUCATION | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---------------|---|-----------|
| <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Donald Rumsfeld</td></tr> </table> | Donald Rumsfeld | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Colin Powell</td></tr> </table> | Colin Powell | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">John Ashcroft</td></tr> </table> | John Ashcroft | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Rod Paige</td></tr> </table> | Rod Paige |
| Donald Rumsfeld | | | | | | | |
| Colin Powell | | | | | | | |
| John Ashcroft | | | | | | | |
| Rod Paige | | | | | | | |
| Duties include: Supervises the training and equipment of the armed forces; assists when disasters strike | Duties include: Advises on foreign affairs | Duties include: Advises on legal matters; is the nation's chief law enforcement officer | Duties include: Works to improve schools | | | | |

1. True or False? The President leads the Senate. _____
2. What is Colin Powell's job? _____
3. What are two powers of the President? _____

4. What is the name of the Cabinet member who works to improve schools? _____
5. True or False? Cabinet members are chosen by the Senate. _____

BONUS: Would you want to be part of the Executive Branch? On the back of this page, describe which position you would like to have and why.