

Executive Power

Under the United States Constitution, power is split between three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The executive branch makes sure the laws are carried out. In the U.S., the president leads the executive branch and is responsible for enforcing laws passed by Congress.

Essential Question

How did the delegates in the Constitutional Convention make an executive strong enough to carry out the laws, but not so strong that he acts like a king?

Vocabulary

Articles of Confederation—The first plan of government of the United States, created after the country became independent from Britain. It gave most of the power to the states and created a weak central government that couldn't collect taxes, control trade, or enforce laws.

Constitutional Convention—A meeting held in the summer months of 1787 in Philadelphia where delegates from the states came together to fix the issues with the Articles of Confederation. Instead of fixing the problems with the Articles of Confederation, they created a completely new plan of government, which became the U.S. Constitution.

Executive power—Power under the Constitution to make carry out the laws made by Congress. In the United States, the president leads the executive branch.

Utah Social Studies Standards

U.S. I Strand 3: The American Revolution

U.S. I Standard 3.1: Students will use primary sources to identify the significant events, ideas, people, and methods used to justify or resist the Revolutionary movement.

U.S. I Strand 4 The U.S. Constitution

U.S. I Standard 4.1: Students will explain how the ideas, events, and compromises which led to the development and ratification of the Constitution are reflected in the document itself.

U.S. I Standard 4.2 Students will describe the structure and function of the government that the Constitution creates.