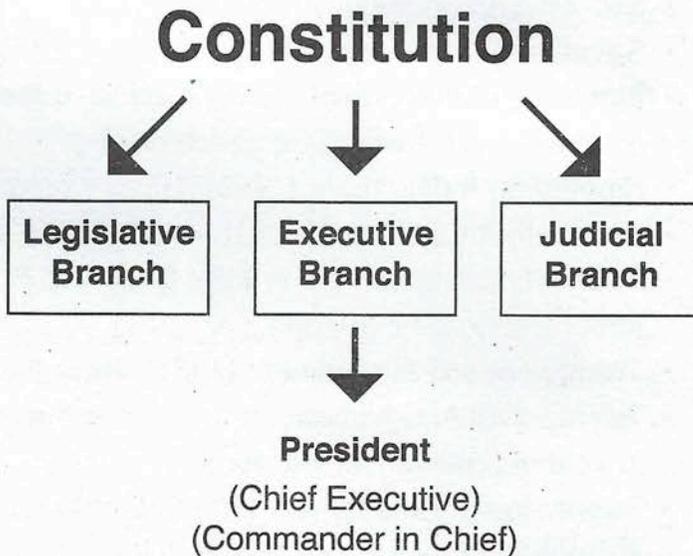


Article II of the Constitution provides for an **executive branch** of government. The executive branch is made up of the president, vice president, and anyone the president appoints (chooses) to serve the country. This includes cabinet members (such as the secretary of transportation), departments (such as the Department of Homeland Security), and agencies (such as the FBI).

The president is in charge of the executive office and is called the **chief executive**. Because the president is in charge of the United States military, he or she is also called the **commander in chief** of the military. The vice president helps the president carry out the executive duties. If the president dies, resigns, or cannot serve for any reason, the vice president becomes president.

The duties of the executive branch are to carry out the laws made by the legislative branch, to suggest new laws, and to create programs to deal with national issues. Because the president is commander in chief of the U.S. military, the president appoints important officers and decides how big the military should be.

The executive branch enforces laws through its departments. The heads of the departments form the presidential "cabinet" and give advice to the president. The executive branch also conducts political business with other nations, makes treaties, and appoints ambassadors.



Answer the Following

1. What are two titles the president has? _____

2. Name three responsibilities of the executive office. _____

3. What do you think is the most important duty of the executive office? Why? _____

