

## Teacher Guide: THE PRESIDENCY

In order of appearance in **Preparing for the Oath**, the Civics Test items covered in this theme are:

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
  - the President
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
  - the President
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
  - the President
34. Who vetoes bills?
  - the President
28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
  - Barack Obama
  - Obama
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
  - the Vice President
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
  - Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
  - Joe Biden
  - Biden
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
  - the Speaker of the House
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
  - advises the President
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretary of Agriculture</li><li>• Secretary of Commerce</li><li>• Secretary of Defense</li><li>• Secretary of Education</li><li>• Secretary of Energy</li><li>• Secretary of Health and Human Services</li><li>• Secretary of Homeland Security</li><li>• Secretary of Housing and Urban Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretary of the Interior</li><li>• Secretary of Labor</li><li>• Secretary of State</li><li>• Secretary of Transportation</li><li>• Secretary of the Treasury</li><li>• Secretary of Veterans Affairs</li><li>• Attorney General</li><li>• Vice President</li></ul>
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### Overview

This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, **The Presidency**. The instructional steps provided here target ESL students at the high beginning level. Watch the video on the Help screen and take some time to familiarize yourself with the elements and navigation of **Preparing for the Oath** so that you are comfortable presenting it to your class.

*Special notes:* Remind your students that immediately prior to their naturalization interview, they should visit [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) for current information on the President and the Vice President.

### Introduction

To start the lesson, open the theme and present the Introduction Screen. Read the introductory paragraph aloud and discuss it with the students.

The president is the leader of one branch of the **federal** government. It is also called the executive branch. This branch **enforces federal** laws.

### Explore the Questions

These steps will help you guide your class through the theme, using an LCD projector:

1. Distribute the handout **Key Vocabulary—The Presidency** and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, **The President**.
3. Play the video for the class with the captions on or off.
4. Pause the video where appropriate to discuss the vocabulary and images with the class.
5. Play the video again without pausing.
6. If there is a Practice activity available for this question, click on the “Practice” tab.
7. View and discuss the Practice activity.
8. Click on the “Try” tab.
9. Listen to the Civics Test item and have the students select the answer. Click on the “hear question” button to listen to the item repeatedly. After choosing the correct option, students can hear the answer aloud while they read along at the bottom of the screen.
10. Go through the rest of the videos in this theme, using the steps above.
11. Once the class has gone through all of the videos in this theme, wrap up this lesson with the handout, **How Well Do You Know The Presidency?**, or assign it to the students for homework.

## **Key Vocabulary—The Presidency**

**advise:** to recommend or suggest; to offer your opinion to someone

**bill:** a proposed plan for a law that the government reviews

**cabinet:** a group of government leaders who advise the president

**civilian:** anyone who is not a member of the military or police

**Commander in Chief:** the U.S. president's role as the official leader of the military

**enforce:** to make people follow laws

**federal:** part of the central U.S. government, not state or local governments

**military:** the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard)

**override:** to change an official decision

**represent:** to make decisions for another person or group of people

**representatives:** elected members of a government group in the United States, such as in Congress

**serve:** to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military

**sign:** to write your name on a document to show that you approve

**signature:** a person's name written in their own handwriting

**sworn in:** when an individual publicly promises to be loyal to a country or an important job

**tie:** to have the same number of votes on each side

**treaties:** formal written agreements between two or more countries

**wages:** money earned for a job

## How Well Do You Know The Presidency?

**Read the answers below. Write the Civics Test question for each answer.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

Visit [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) right before your naturalization interview for current information on the President and the Vice President.

Example: Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

Answer: The President is the Commander in Chief.

1. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: They advise the President.

2. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The President is in charge of the executive branch.

3. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The Vice President becomes President.

4. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The President vetoes bills.

5. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Labor.

6. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The Speaker of the House becomes President.

7. \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer: The President signs bills to become laws.

**Read the Civics Test questions below. Write the answer for each question.**

1. What is the name of the President of the United States now? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now? \_\_\_\_\_



Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=5> to go directly to **The Presidency** theme.