Guided Reading

The Executive Branch

Chapter 6:

Lesson 1 The President and Vice President

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

• What is required of leaders?

Office of the President

1. Defining As you read the text, complete the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitutional Requirements of President</th>
<th>Characteristics of Presidents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• must be at least 35 years old</td>
<td>• So far, all have been male.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• native-born U.S. citizen</td>
<td>• most have come from states with large populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• U.S. resident for at least 14 years</td>
<td>• most have been white (Barack Obama was 1st African American president)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Explaining The president is elected by an indirect method of voting. What does that mean?

Voters do not vote directly for president. The Electoral College elects the president. When voters choose a candidate’s name from the ballot, they are actually choosing a list of Electoral College members who pledge to vote for that candidate.

3. Analyzing How is it possible that the electoral votes of just a few small states can determine the outcome of a close presidential election?

Most states have a winner-take-all system. If a candidate wins by just a few popular votes in a state, that candidate wins all the state’s electoral votes. The candidate might win several small states by winner-take-all and gain enough electoral votes to win the national election.
4. **Listing** As you read, complete the web diagram by adding details about presidential term limits and benefits.

Office of President

- **Term Limits**
  - 4 yrs. per term
  - limited to 2 elected terms
  - may serve up to 10 yrs.
- **Salary/Benefits**
  - $400,000 per year
  - some personal expenses ($50,000) & travel ($100,000)
  - residency in the White House
  - staff for family
  - use of Camp David (Maryland mts.)
  - transportation fleet (Air Force One & Marine One)

5. **Summarizing** As you read, complete the graphic organizer by listing information about the office of the vice president.

Vice President

- **Election Details**
  - elected with the president
  - elected through Electoral College
- **Powers of Office**
  - requirements same as president
  - oversees Senate
  - becomes president if president cannot serve out term
  - can vote to break ties in Senate

*Constitution gives little power to the Veep.*
Presidential Succession

6. **Sequencing** The Presidential Succession Act of 1947 outlined rules for who should hold office if a president dies or leaves office. As you read the text, complete the flowchart to show the line of succession to the office of president.

**Presidential Succession Act of 1947:**
Line of Succession to President

- Vice President
- Speaker of the House
- Senate President Pro Tempore
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Remainder of the Cabinet
The Executive Branch

7. **Evaluating** The Twenty-fifth Amendment, ratified in 1967, answered key questions about presidential succession. As you read the text, ask and answer three questions the amendment addresses.

**Q.** Who becomes president if the president dies or leaves office?

**A.** the vice president

**Q.** How is a new vice president chosen?

**A.** The new vice president chooses a vice president. The House and Senate must approve the choice.

**Q.** If the president is temporarily too sick or disabled to hold office, who serves as acting president?

**A.** If that happens, the vice president becomes acting president until the president can return to work.

The president must inform Congress in writing if possible.