NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum

Civic Literacy: Primed on the Presidency

Grades 3-5

Program Overview

Above: Seal of the President of the United States

The President of the United States of America

- Why would someone want to become President?
- Article II of the Constitution
- Who can become President?
- Where do they work?
- What are their responsibilities?

Civic Literacy & Engagement

- Why is it important to know how our government works?
- What can we as Americans do to help shape our democracy?

Why Would Someone Want to be President?

What positive traits do you think our Presidents should have and why?

How would you and your family's life change if you were President?

Do you think it's easy or difficult to lead our nation?

Right: President Barack Obama laughs with Presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush at the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum (National Archives Identifier: 157649612)

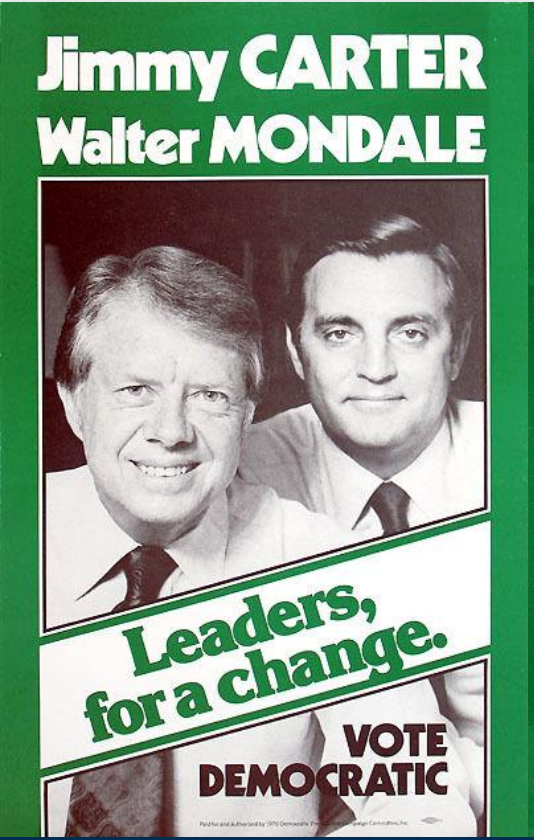
What do Their Photographs Tell Us?

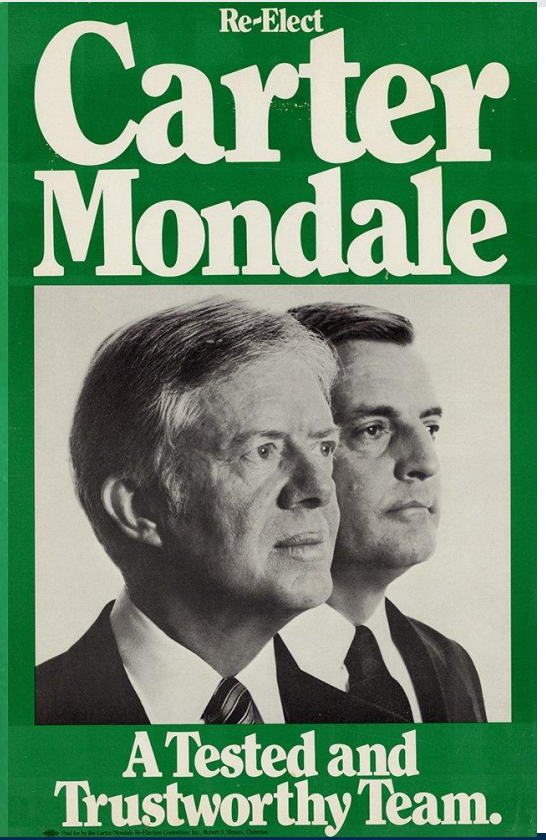
Barack Obama

2009 and 2015

Far Left: Barack Obama and Daughter Sasha, 9/1/2009 (National Archives Identifier: 157649896)
Left: The Obama Family pose for their Portrait in the Rose Garden of the White House (National Archives Identifier: 118817909)

What Do Their Photographs Tell Us?





Jimmy Carter

(and Walter Mondale)

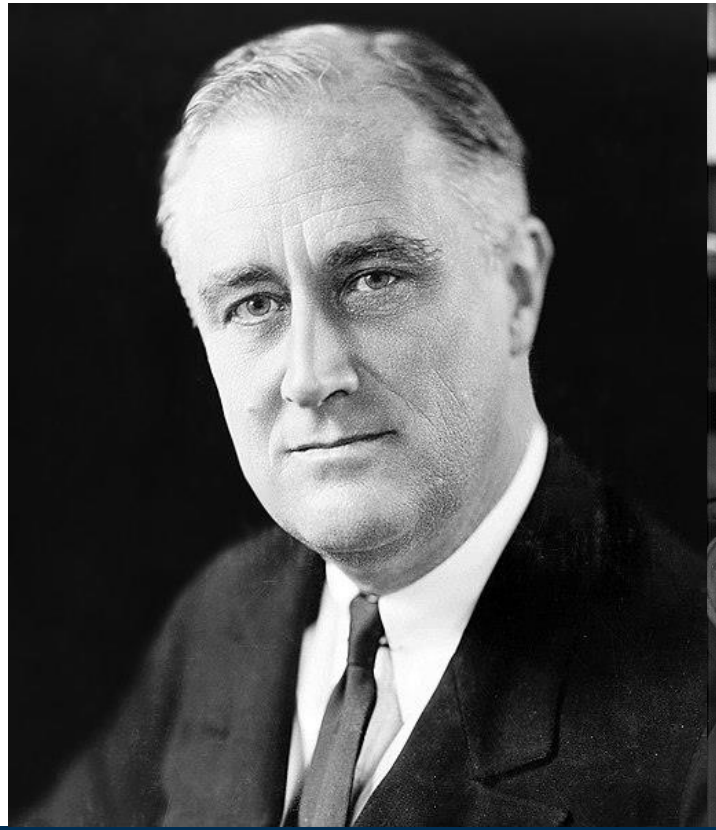
1976 and 1980

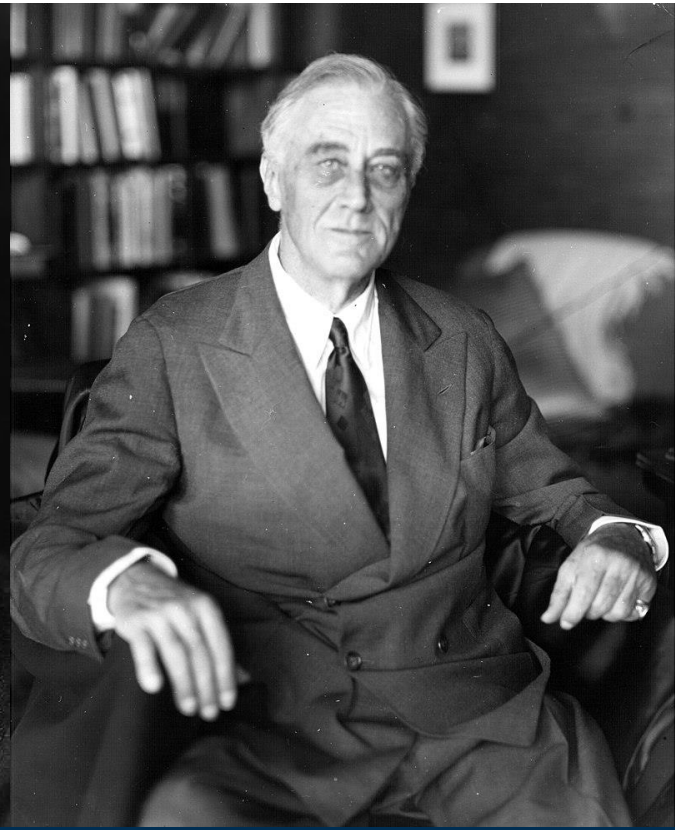
Far Left: Carter-Mondale presidential campaign poster, 1976 (Carter Library)
Left: Carter-Mondale presidential campaign poster, 1980 (Carter Library)

What do Their Photographs Tell Us?

Franklin D. Roosevelt

1933 and 1945



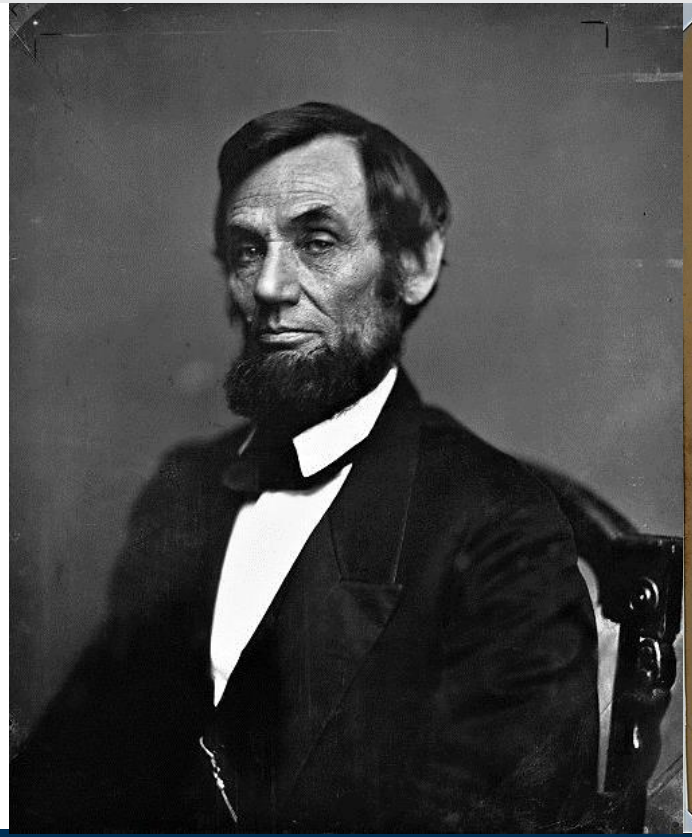


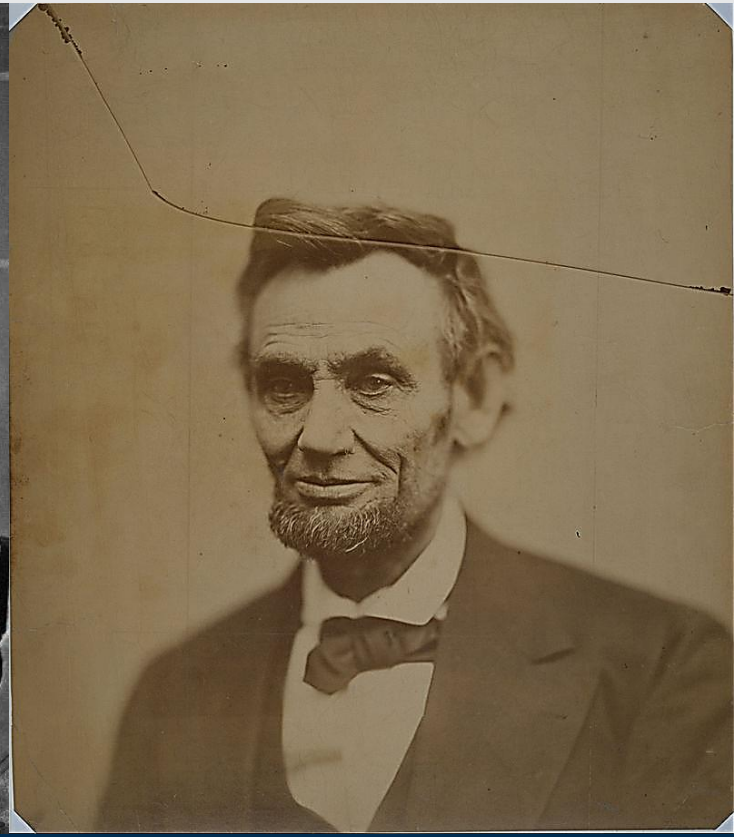
Right: Franklin Roosevelt, 1933 (Library of Congress)
Far Right: The last photograph taken of Franklin Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945 (FDR Library/Nicholas Robbins)

What do Their Photographs Tell Us?

Abraham Lincoln

1861 and 1865





Right: Abraham Lincoln, 4/6/1861 (Library of Congress/Matthew Brady)
Far Right: Abraham Lincoln, 2/5/1865 (National Portrait Gallery/Alexander Gardner)

What is the Constitution?

The Constitution was signed in 1787, establishing:

- America's national government and supreme laws
- Basic rights of all Americans

Right: The Signing of the Constitution, painting by Howard Chandler Christy, 1940 (Architect of the Capitol)

What is the Constitution?

nt of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage,
a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless a

Article. II.

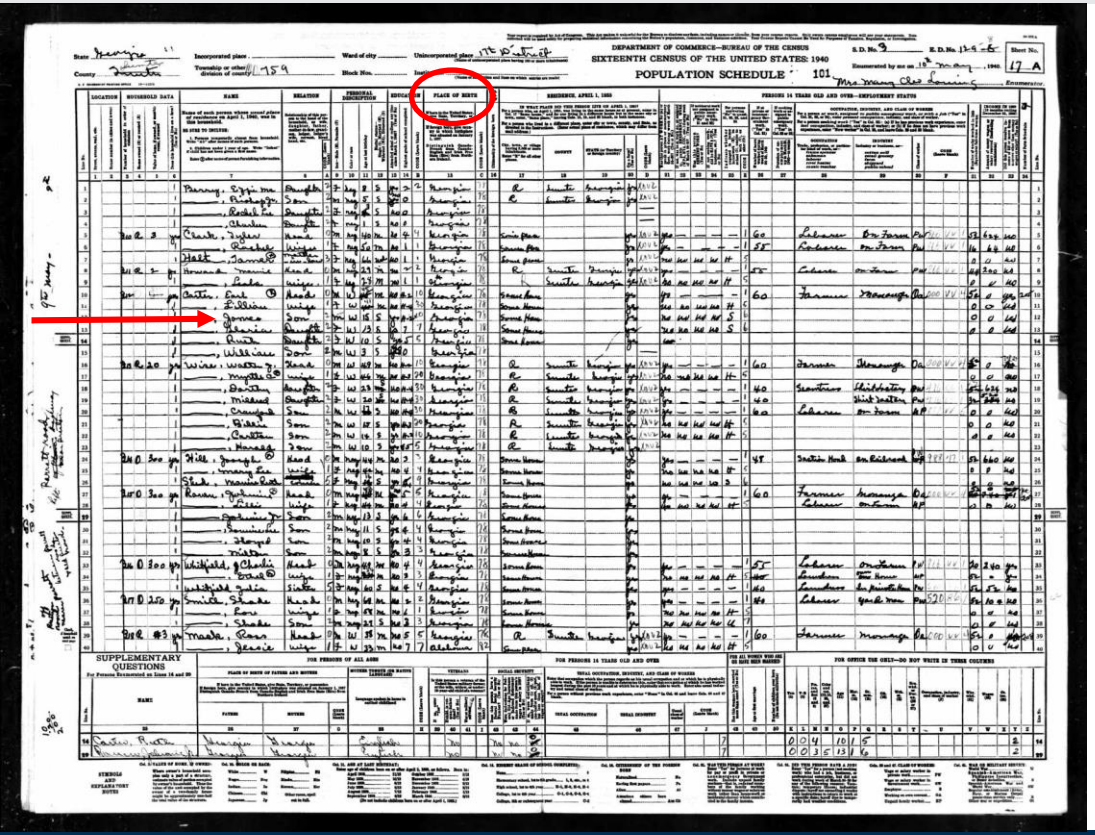
vested in a President of the United States
sen for the same Term, be elected, as follow
manner as the Legislature thereof may di
ay be entitled in the Congress: but no Sen

Article II of the Constitution

1. Establishes Executive Branch of U.S. Government, with the President in charge
2. How we elect or remove a President
3. Powers and responsibilities of the President

Left: Article II of the United States Constitution (National Archives Identifier: 1667751)

Who Can Become President?



Any person born in the United States, or in another country to American parent(s) who:

- Is at least 35 years of age
- Has lived in the United States for 14 years or more

Learn more about Census Records and online Genealogical Resources at the National Archives

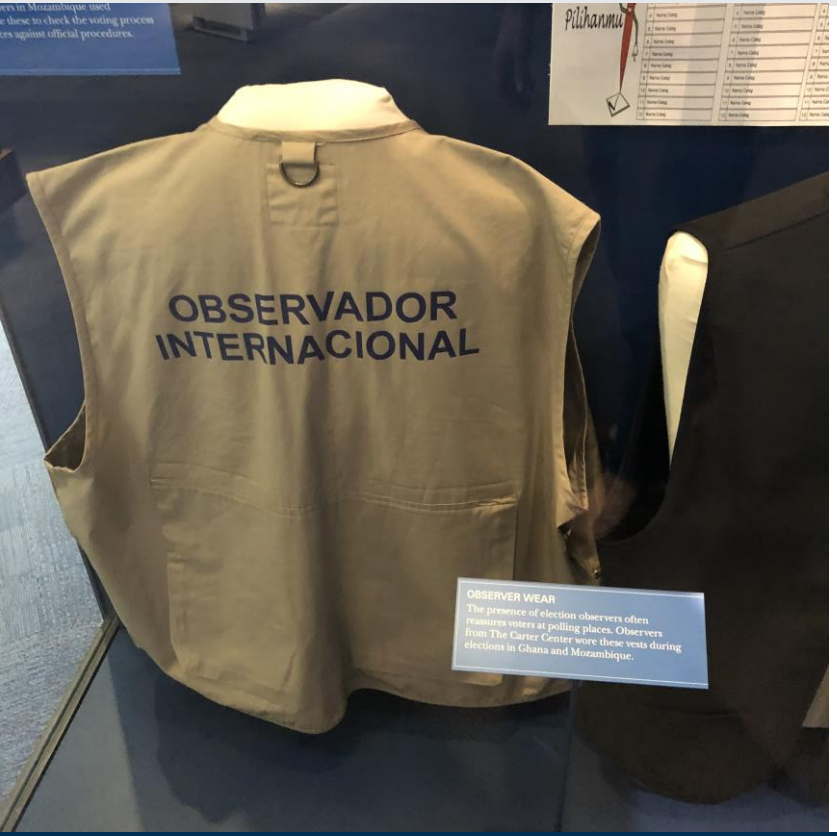
Left: Sixteenth Census of the United States 1940, including record of President Jimmy Carter living in the U.S. (Carter Library)

Can This Person Become President?

1. Sarah was born in 1980 in Germany where her parents were stationed in the United States military. In 2010 she moved to the U.S. to live in Georgia, where she has lived ever since. Is there any reason why Sarah could not run for President in the 2024 election?

2. Marco left his native country of Ecuador in 2000 to live and work in the United States. Since then, he has stayed in the U.S., become an American citizen and is now 41 years old. Is there anything stopping Marco from running for President in 2024?

Choosing Our Leader



1. Do you think that people in every country get to choose, or elect their leaders? We have a President, but can you think of any other titles that leaders of other countries have?

2. What are the benefits of democracy, or people electing their own leaders? Why do you think some countries don't allow their people to have free elections?

Left: Election observers from the Carter Center wore these vests during election monitoring in Ghana and Mozambique (Carter Library)

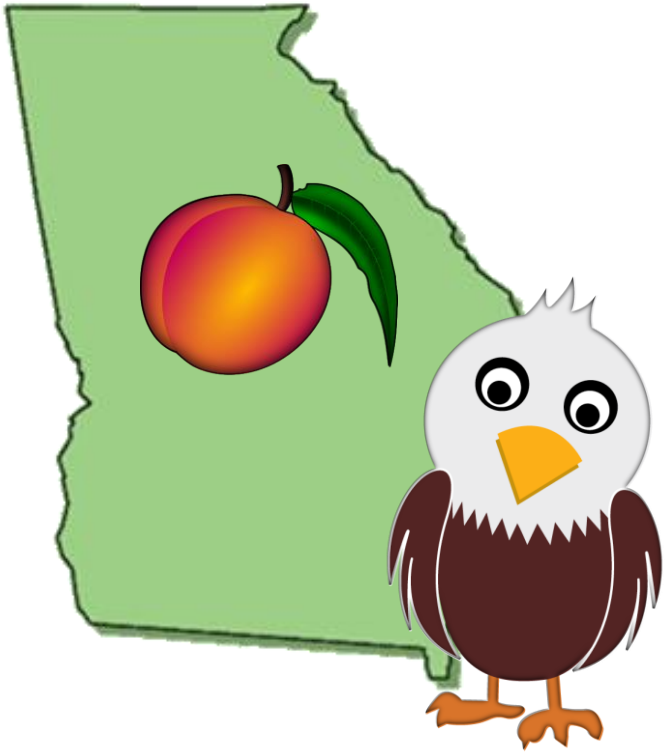
How is the President Elected?

- A person running for President must win the most **Electoral Votes**
- **Electoral Votes of a State = Number of U.S. Representatives + 2 U.S. Senators**
- Each state gets one U.S. Representative for about every 720,000 people living there; the Constitution gives each state two Senators, no matter how many people live there
- To figure out the population of the country and each state, the United States does a **Census**, or a count of all its people every 10 years; most recent Census is 2020
- The person that gets the most votes in each state wins **all** of its Electoral Votes
- **With 538 Electoral Votes, 270 are needed to win** (538 ÷ 2 = 269, + 1 for majority = 270)

How is the President Elected?

Case Study: State of Georgia

- **Population in 2010 Census:** 9,687,653
- One representative for every 720,000 people living in a state
- **9,687,653 ÷ 720,000 = 13.5**, but we can't have half of a representative, so round up to 14 Representatives
- **14 Representatives + 2 Senators = 16 Electoral Votes for Georgia**



How is the President Elected?

Members of Jimmy Carter's Presidential Campaign Staff came to be known as the "Peanut Brigade" for their support of Carter who operated a peanut farm and distribution business in rural Georgia (Carter Library)

A candidate, or person running in an election, must convince the most voters they are the best person for the job

The United States is a large country, with hundreds of millions of people! How do candidates for President get their message out to voters across our land?

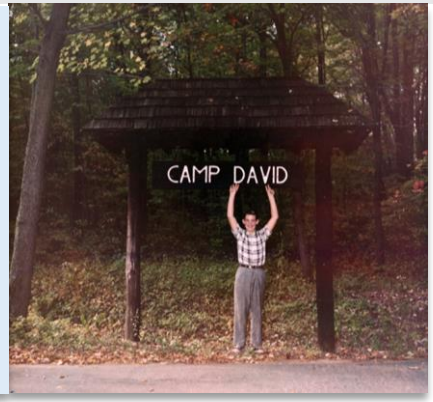
Where Does the President Work?

A

(National Archives Identifier: 6384319)

B

(Eisenhower Library)



C

(National Archives Identifier: 6494253)

D

(National Archives Identifier: 6384319)

What are Their Responsibilities?

Approve or Veto bills passed by Congress

What's another word that means the same thing as "Veto?"

Left: President Jimmy Carter signing the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 12/2/1980 (National Archives Identifier: 166691808)

What are Their Responsibilities?

Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Military

Does this mean a President has to have served in the military?

Right: General H. Norman Schwarzkopf salutes President George H.W. Bush as he leads the Desert Storm Homecoming Parade in Washington, D.C. (National Archives Identifier: 186434)

What are Their Responsibilities?

Make Treaties with Foreign Nations

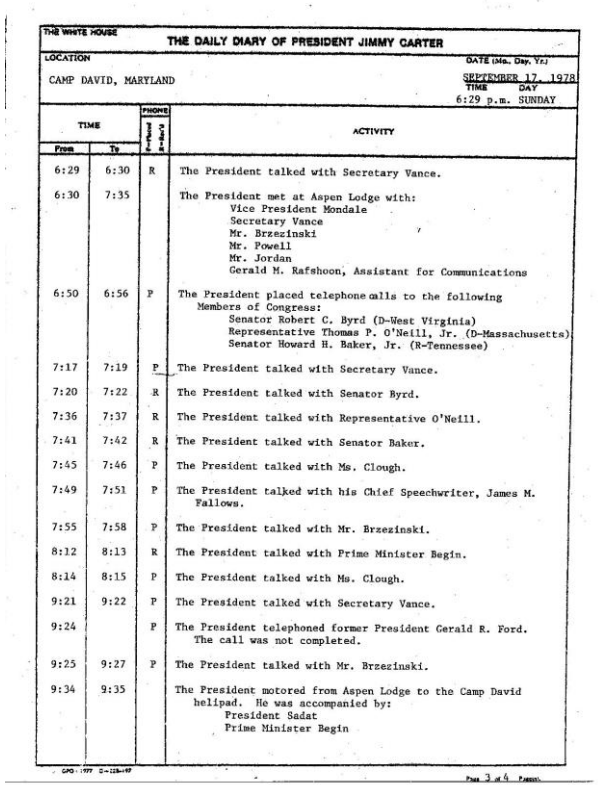
2/3 or 67% of the Senate must approve

Appoints/Chooses Ambassadors and Public Ministers

Receives/Meets Ambassadors from Foreign Nations

Above: This sculpture commemorates the famous handshake between Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin, and Jimmy Carter after they signed the Camp David Accords (Carter Library)

Right: The Daily Diary of President Jimmy Carter, 9/17/1978 (Carter Library)



THE WHITE HOUSE

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

LOCATION: CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND

DATE (Mo., Day, Yr.): SEPTEMBER 17, 1978

TIME DAY: 6:29 p.m. SUNDAY

TIME From	TIME To	PHONE P=Phone R=Radio	ACTIVITY
6:29	6:30	R	The President talked with Secretary Vance.
6:30	7:35		The President met at Aspen Lodge with: Vice President Mondale, Secretary Vance, Mr. Brzezinski, Mr. Powell, Mr. Jordan, Gerald M. Rafshoon, Assistant for Communications
6:50	6:56	P	The President placed telephone calls to the following Members of Congress: Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia), Representative Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. (D-Massachusetts), Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R-Tennessee)
7:17	7:19	P	The President talked with Secretary Vance.
7:20	7:22	R	The President talked with Senator Byrd.
7:36	7:37	R	The President talked with Representative O'Neill.
7:41	7:42	R	The President talked with Senator Baker.
7:45	7:46	P	The President talked with Ms. Clough.
7:49	7:51	P	The President talked with his Chief Speechwriter, James M. Fallows.
7:55	7:58	P	The President talked with Mr. Brzezinski.
8:12	8:13	R	The President talked with Prime Minister Begin.
8:14	8:15	P	The President talked with Ms. Clough.
9:21	9:22	P	The President talked with Secretary Vance.
9:24		P	The President telephoned former President Gerald R. Ford. The call was not completed.
9:25	9:27	P	The President talked with Mr. Brzezinski.
9:34	9:35		The President motored from Aspen Lodge to the Camp David helipad. He was accompanied by: President Sadat, Prime Minister Begin

GPO : 1977 O - 226-197

Page 3 of 4 Pages

Can They Do That?

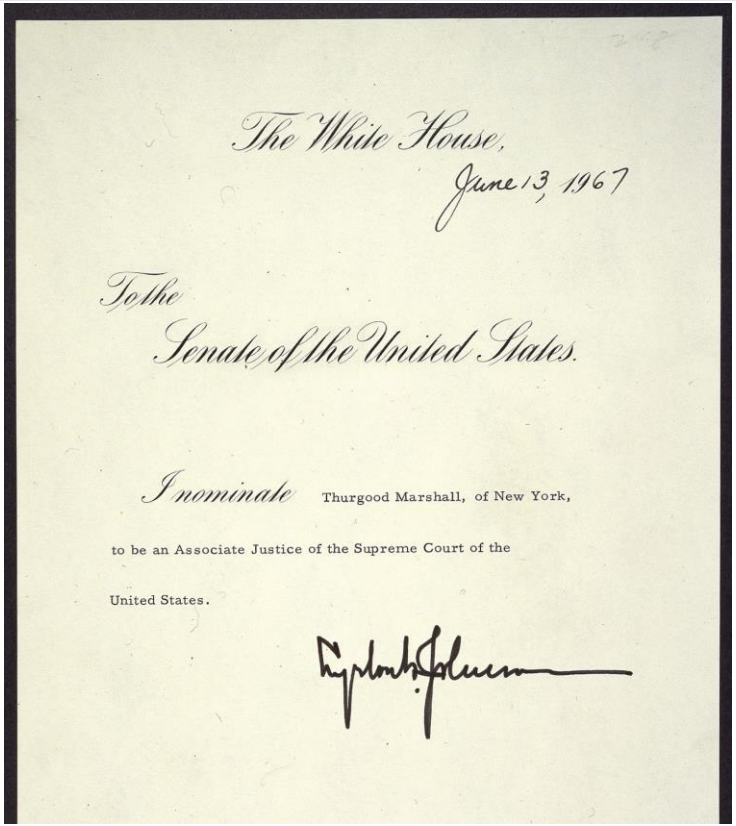
1. The Governor of Georgia plans to have a meeting with the President of Cuba to discuss signing a treaty to establish trade between their governments. Is there any reason the governor of a state cannot sign a treaty with the leader of another country?

2. The President of the United States fears a war between Egypt and Israel may grow larger and spread to other countries. To avoid this, they meet with the leaders of these nations and agree on a peace treaty. If the Senate has 100 members and a treaty needs 2/3 or 67% of them to approve it, how many votes does it need to pass?

What are Their Responsibilities?

Nominate or choose people to be approved by the Senate to serve on the Supreme Court

Why do you think the Constitution requires the Senate to approve the President's nominations?



The White House,
June 13, 1967

To the
Senate of the United States.

I nominate Thurgood Marshall, of New York,
to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the
United States.

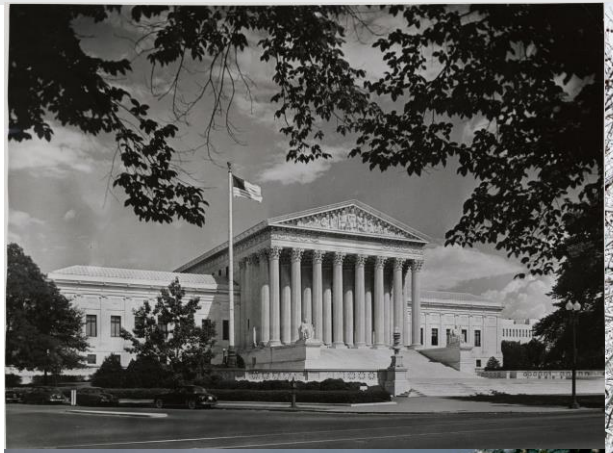
Lyndon B. Johnson

Right: President Lyndon B. Johnson's message nominating Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court (National Archives Identifier: 306369)

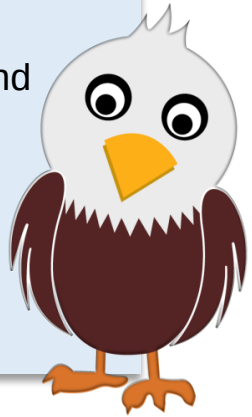
The Bottom Line

The President works with the Legislative and Judicial Branches to govern our nation and enforce the Constitution

Why is it important for the three branches of our government to cooperate and work together?



Clockwise from top: Supreme Court Building (National Archives Identifier: 594954) The United States Capitol, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 6384310)The White House, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 6384319)

Follow-up Assignment

1. Review all the photographs, documents and artifacts/objects from the presentation and choose one that you would like to look at more closely
2. Visit the **National Archives website** and scroll down to **Worksheets for Novice or Younger Students, or Those Learning English**
3. Select the right worksheet for your document and answer as many questions on it as you can (it's okay if you can't find all the answers)
4. Share your answers with your teacher and classmates as instructed