

Title: Executive Departments PowerPoint Presentations
Subject: Civics
Grade: 9th

Standards:

All students will acquire information from books, maps, newspapers, data sets, and other sources including the internet, organize and present the information in maps, graphs, or charts, interpret the meaning and significance of information, and use a variety of electronic technologies to assist in accessing and managing information. (Michigan Content Standard V: Inquiry)

1. Locate information pertaining to a specific social science topic using a variety of sources and electronic technologies. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #1)
2. Use traditional and electronic means to organize and interpret information pertaining to a specific social science topic and prepare it for in-depth presentation. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #2)
3. Develop generalizations pertaining to a specific social science topic by interpreting information from a variety of sources. (Michigan Content Standard V: High School Benchmark #3)

Objectives:

1. To identify and describe the fifteen Executive Departments.
2. To explain the structure of the federal bureaucracy.
3. To understand that as the nation has grown and changed through history the job of the Chief Executive Office has become more complex, therefore, the President has needed to rely increasingly on the expert advice of department heads.
4. To locate information pertaining to a specific Executive department.
5. To organize information about the Executive Departments in a PowerPoint presentation.

Materials:

1. Chalkboard, chalk, eraser
2. Computers with Internet access
3. Software Requirements: Microsoft PowerPoint
4. A copy of the *Grading Rubric* for each presenter
5. *Directions Handout* for each student
6. Data Projection

Opener:

1. After completing a unit on the United States Presidency, point out that as the job of Chief Executive Officer has become more complex, the Presidents needs to rely increasingly on the advice of his Cabinet. Have students recall the duties of the

President from the previous unit and suggest some areas in which the President might need expert advice. Write student responses on the board. (For example, foreign affairs, the military, labor concerns, energy resources, etc.) As the students study the executive departments in order to prepare their PowerPoint presentation, have students match the executive departments with the items on the board.

2. Give each student a *Directions Handout*, assign each student an executive department, and go to the computer lab to begin research.

Procedure:

1. Allow three class periods for students to complete their research and PowerPoint presentations.
2. Allow an additional two days for student presentations.

Closure:

Debrief with students by performing one of the following or both...

1. Give students notes on each of the fifteen executive departments.
2. There are also numerous videos on the market that nicely summarize the executive departments. (For example, *Understanding the Government: The Executive Branch* by Full Circle Entertainment)

Assessment:

Assessment will be based on the score from the rubric. Criteria for assessment will include:

1. Understanding of content material
2. Sufficiency of detail
3. Creativity and organization of the presentation

Evaluation/Reflection:

Cooperating Teacher Approval and Comments: