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# The Executive Branch

Today we're going to talk about the executive branch...in just a minute.

The executive branch is the branch of the federal government that includes the president, vice president, cabinet, and others.

To be president, a person must have been born in the US or a US territory and be at least 35 years old. They are not directly elected by the people but by the Electoral College.

Article II of the Constitution grants the president several specific powers.

Military power: the president is commander in chief of the Army and Navy.

Diplomatic power: they can make treaties with other countries and receive ambassadors.

Judicial power: they can appoint federal and Supreme Court judges.

Legislative power: they can convene and adjourn sessions of Congress.

And finally, executive power: the president has the power to make sure laws are faithfully carried out.

But the president does a lot more than that. In addition to what is expressly written in the Constitution, they have informal powers that are implied or considered inherent to the office. For example, the Constitution doesn't mention the Air Force—only the Army and Navy—because planes didn't exist in 1787. But the language of the Constitution implies that the president also commands the Air Force and other branches of the military.

What other informal powers does the president have?