

Name: _____

Date: _____

Key

The Executive Branch

What were the problems at the Philadelphia Convention?

When the Framers of the Constitution got together to write the U.S. Constitution, they had a problem. Many like Madison and Washington, were afraid that legislatures run by the majority vote would neglect the needs of the minority. At the same time, though, they still remembered all the problems they had with King George III, so they didn't want to give too much power to one person. The Framers wanted to create an executive branch that had enough power to fulfill its responsibilities and yet was not so strong that it could overwhelm the other branches and endanger the rights of the people the way King George did.

1. What was the main concern of the Framers of the Constitution when creating an executive branch?

They didn't want one branch to have too much power.

2. Why were people afraid of having a country's leader be too strong?

They did not want another king.

How much power should be given to the executive branch?

The Framers solution is in Article II of the Constitution, which creates the executive branch. The main job of the executive branch is to carry out the laws. Article II is written in general terms so it gives broad powers to the President. These included the power to:

- enforce laws made by Congress
- make treaties with foreign nations
- appoint certain officials
- conduct wars
- veto and approve laws passed by Congress

The Framers also limited the President's power because:

- although the President can nominate officials, the Senate can reject these nominations
- although the President can enter into a treaty with another nation, the Senate must vote and approve the treaty
- although the President can conduct a war as Commander-in-Chief, only Congress can declare war
- although the President can veto laws passed by Congress, Congress can override that veto with a two-thirds vote in both Houses

1. What is the main job of the executive branch?

Enforce laws / carry out laws

2. What was the Framers solution to the problem of an executive branch with too much power?

Limit the Presidents power. The other branches can check the executive branch

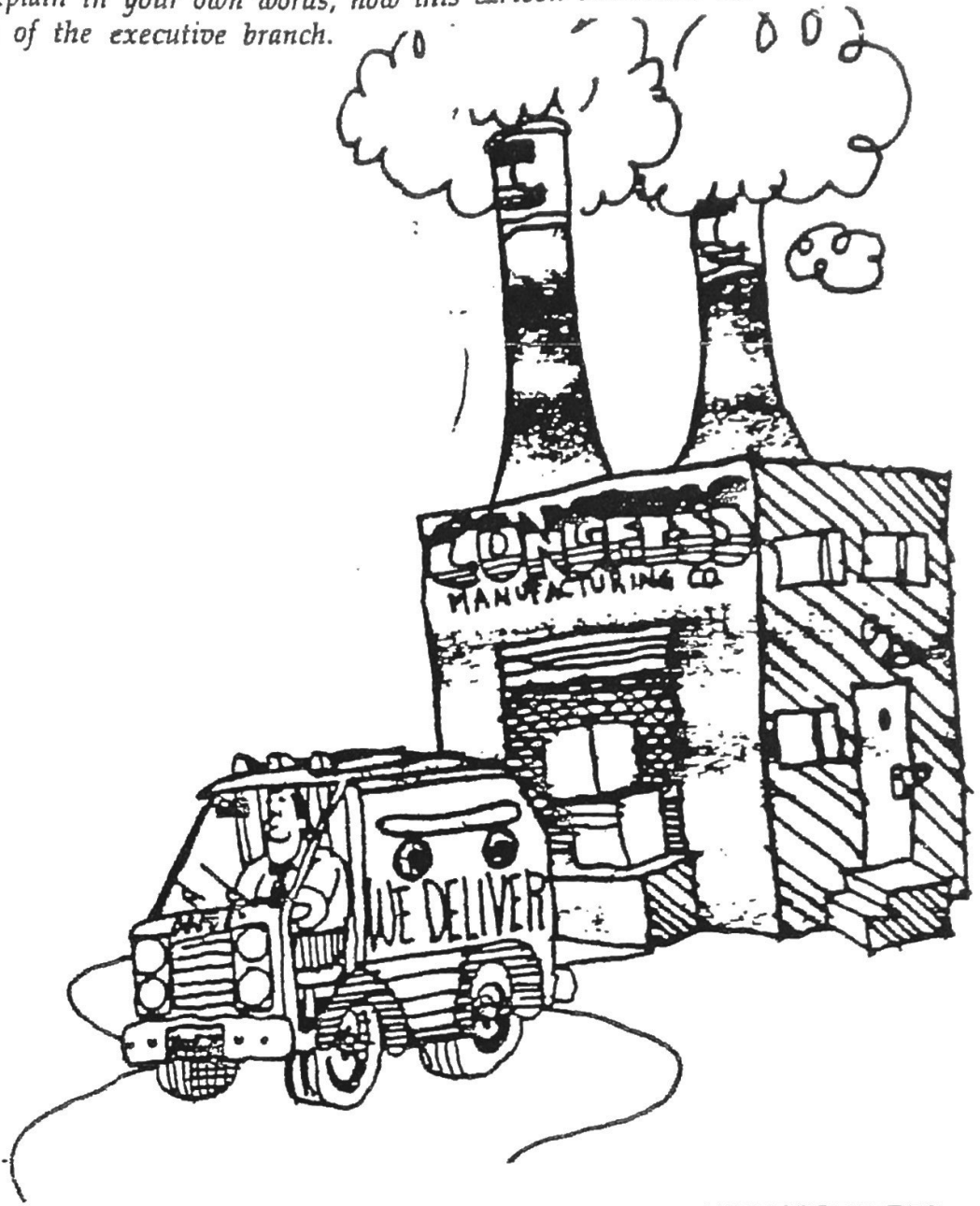
3. Name two powers of the executive branch.

Enforce laws
Make treaties

4. How does Congress limit the power of the executive branch?

- Only Congress can declare war
- Congress can override a presidents veto with a 2/3 vote.

Directions: Explain in your own words, how this cartoon illustrates the responsibilities of the executive branch.



To carry out the laws