

SECTION 1

THE PRESIDENT'S JOB DESCRIPTION

TEXT SUMMARY

The Constitution grants the President six of his eight roles. The President acts as the ceremonial head of the government, or **chief of state**. As such, he stands as the representative of all the people of the nation. The President is also head of the executive branch, or **chief executive**. As **chief administrator**, he manages the Federal Government. As the nation's **chief diplomat**, the President sets the nation's foreign policy. The President directly controls all U.S. military forces as the **commander in chief**. He determines Congress's agenda in his role as **chief legislator**.

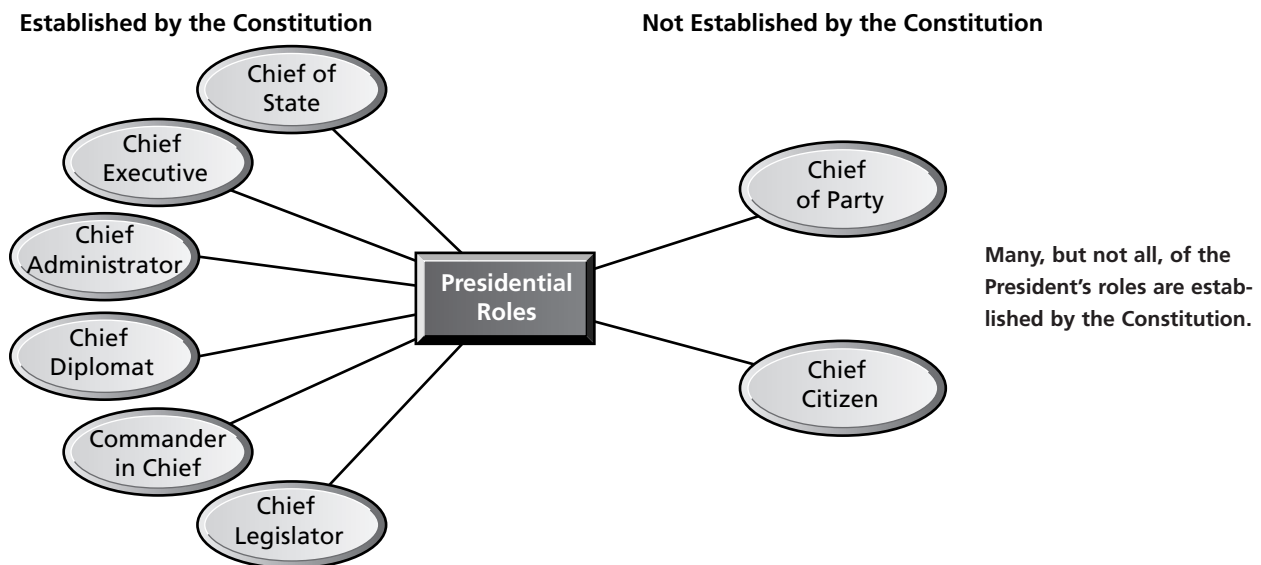
Two presidential roles are not defined by the Constitution. The President is **chief of party**, the unofficial head of his political party. The President is also **chief citizen** and, as such, is expected to work for and to represent the public interest.

To become President, a person must be born a citizen, be at least 35 years old, and have lived in the United States for at least the last 14 years. In 1951 the 22nd Amendment limited the presidency to two terms of four years each. The President receives a salary and benefits.

THE BIG IDEA

The President of the United States must perform eight different roles at the same time.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: The Roles of the President



Many, but not all, of the President's roles are established by the Constitution.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the three qualifications for becoming President?
2. **Diagram Skills** Which presidential roles are not expressed in the Constitution?