

THE MANY PIECES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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1.	_____ agencies establish guidelines or standards are met throughout the nation.	
2.	Law enforcement agencies aim to uphold laws and _____ the nation's security.	
3.	Cabinet departments provide _____ services and expertise, anchoring the efforts of the executive branch.	
4.	Government employees fill roles from research scientists to administrative _____, and more!	
5.	The U.S. government can be compared to a jigsaw puzzle, where each _____ of the puzzle represents part of the bigger governing picture.	
6.	When working together properly, cabinet departments and agencies help create an _____ executive branch.	
7.	The unified, complete image of a finished puzzle can be compared to a _____-functioning government.	
8.	The U.S. executive branch is made up of various _____ departments and agencies.	

The Many Pieces

Imagine the bigger picture. The executive branch is made up of many pieces that work together to create a well-functioning government.

Corner Pieces: Cabinet Departments

Picture the corner pieces of the puzzle as the cabinet departments – sturdy and essential. These departments, including Defense, Education, and Health and Human Services, anchor the executive branch's efforts. Just as corner pieces establish the puzzle's borders, cabinet departments set the foundation for the nation's governance by providing essential services and expertise. Cabinet members serve as advisors to the President and are key decision-makers.

Edge Pieces: Independent Agencies

The edge pieces of the puzzle symbolize the independent agencies that outline the executive branch's functions. These agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), work on specific issues to uphold the government's goals, similar to how edge pieces define the puzzle's shape. They contribute unique perspectives and specialized solutions to the government's overall goals.

Interlocking Pieces: Regulatory Agencies

Imagine the interlocking pieces of the puzzle as the regulatory agencies within the executive branch. Just as these pieces connect seamlessly, regulatory agencies like the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensure that industries and activities throughout the nation run smoothly and fairly. They ensure guidelines and standards are met.

Special Pieces: Law Enforcement Agencies

You know those special puzzle pieces that stand out, often due to a unique shape? Think of these pieces as law enforcement agencies, whose unique functions allow them to maintain order in the "government puzzle." Just as special pieces stand out in the puzzle, agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) stand out by upholding laws and safeguarding the nation's security.

Filling the Gaps: Government Employees

Envision the puzzle pieces gradually filling in the gaps to complete the image – much like government employees filling key roles within the executive branch. From dedicated scientists in research agencies to administrative personnel in various departments, these individuals each play a vital role in completing the government's intricate design.