

U.S. Government: The Executive Branch



In this lesson, students will understand how the system of checks and balances plays a fundamental role in the country's balance of power and learn the roles of the executive branch –and the way the power is distributed across various positions within government.

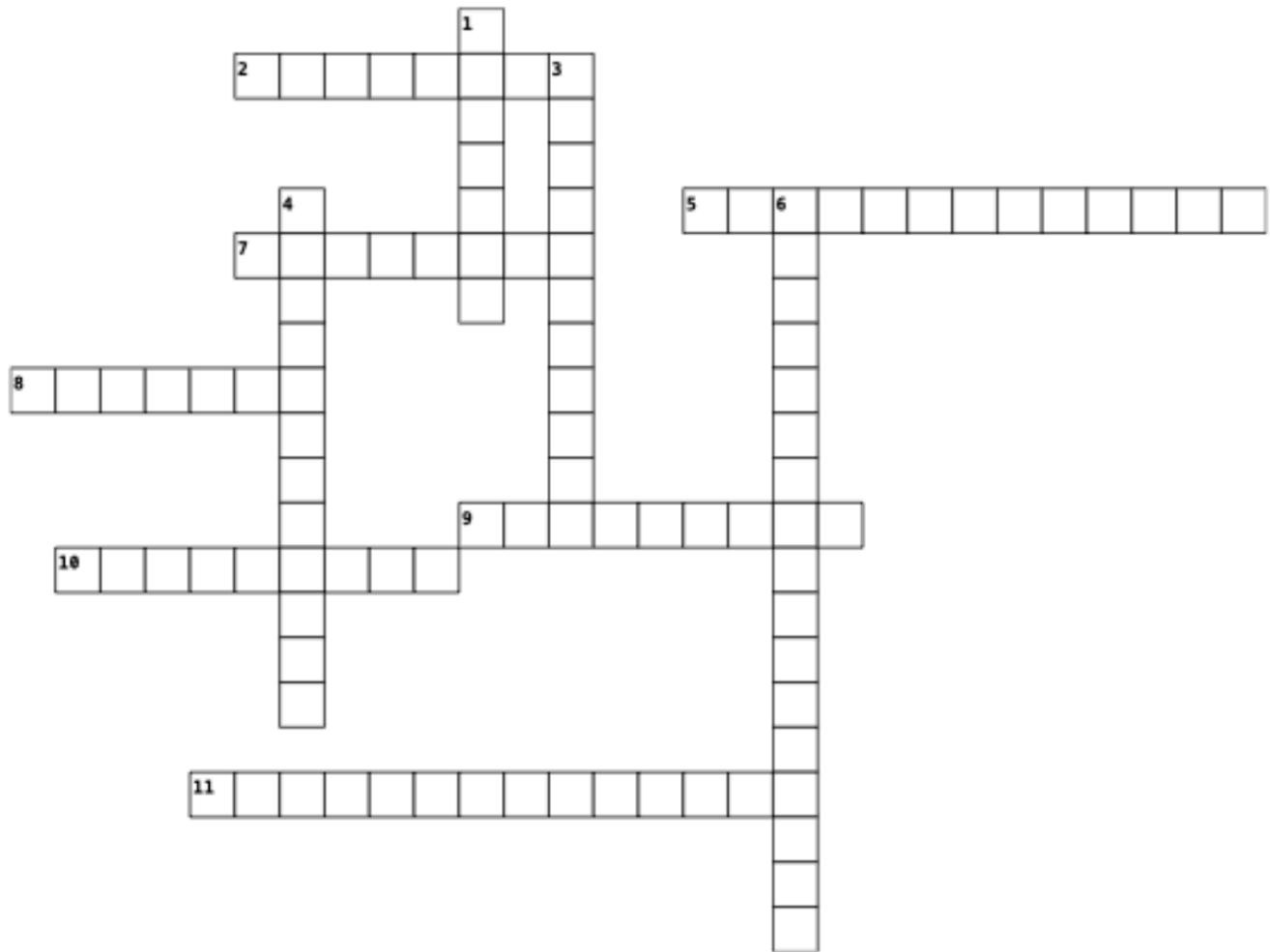
Grades: 6-8	Subject: Social Studies
Essential Question(s)	What are the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the government?
Focus Standard(s)	D2.Civ.4.6-8 Explain the powers and limits of the three branches of government, public officials, and bureaucracies at different levels in the United States and in other countries.
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to explain the powers and limits of the executive branch of the U.S. Government.
Materials/Resources	U.S. Government: The Executive Branch Chart paper or whiteboard Accompanying crossword puzzle
Vocabulary	Secretary of transportation: official in charge of travel; interpret: understand, believe about, decide the meaning of; security: safety; foreign policy: plan to deal with other countries; transportation: ways to travel, such as by car, bike, or train; impeach: charge a government leader with a crime
Anticipatory Set	Think-Pair-Share: Ask students, “Who is responsible for making sure the country runs smoothly every day?” Allow time for students to share their thoughts with a partner before allowing students to share with the whole class.
Guided Instruction	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On a piece of chart paper or a whiteboard, write a list of people, groups, or jobs that students mention as helping to run the country. Then ask students, “What does the president do?”2. Next, ask students to consider these questions: “What if the president couldn’t do their job for a day? Who would help out? What other roles do you think exist in the executive branch of the U.S. Government?” Allow time for students to discuss.
Independent Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell students that today they will explore the executive branch of the government. Their challenge is to be able to answer the following questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who works in the executive branch?• What roles do these people have?• How does the executive branch help run the country?2. Have students read the article, <i>U.S. Government: The Executive Branch</i>, independently, or with a partner, highlighting evidence to support their answers to the challenge questions.
Closure/Assessment	After students finish reading, assess their understanding by having them complete the article’s online quiz. Optional activity: Students can complete the

	accompanying crossword puzzle to further their understanding of the executive branch.
Differentiation	Adjust lexile levels as needed; use accessibility tools and Read-to-Me feature as needed; print copies of article

Name: _____

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues below.

U.S. Government: The Executive Branch



Across

- 2. Branch that interprets laws
- 5. Head of the Senate
- 7. Group that makes laws
- 8. Advisory committee
- 9. Head of the executive branch
- 10. Branch that executes laws
- 11. Department that ensures highways are safe

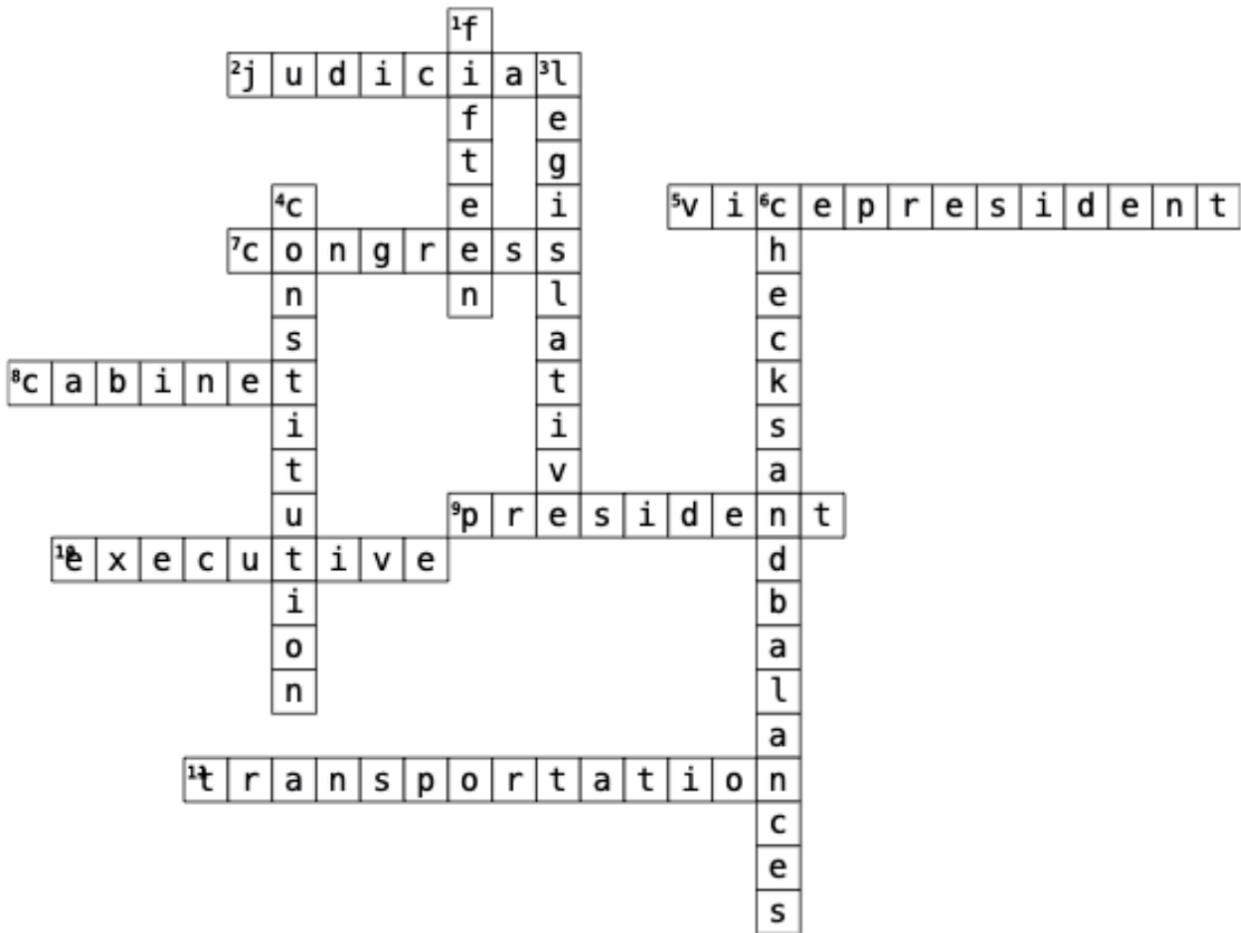
Down

- 1. Number of departments of the Cabinet
- 3. Branch that makes laws
- 4. Document to ensure citizen's rights
- 6. System that limits power

Name: _____ **ANSWER KEY**

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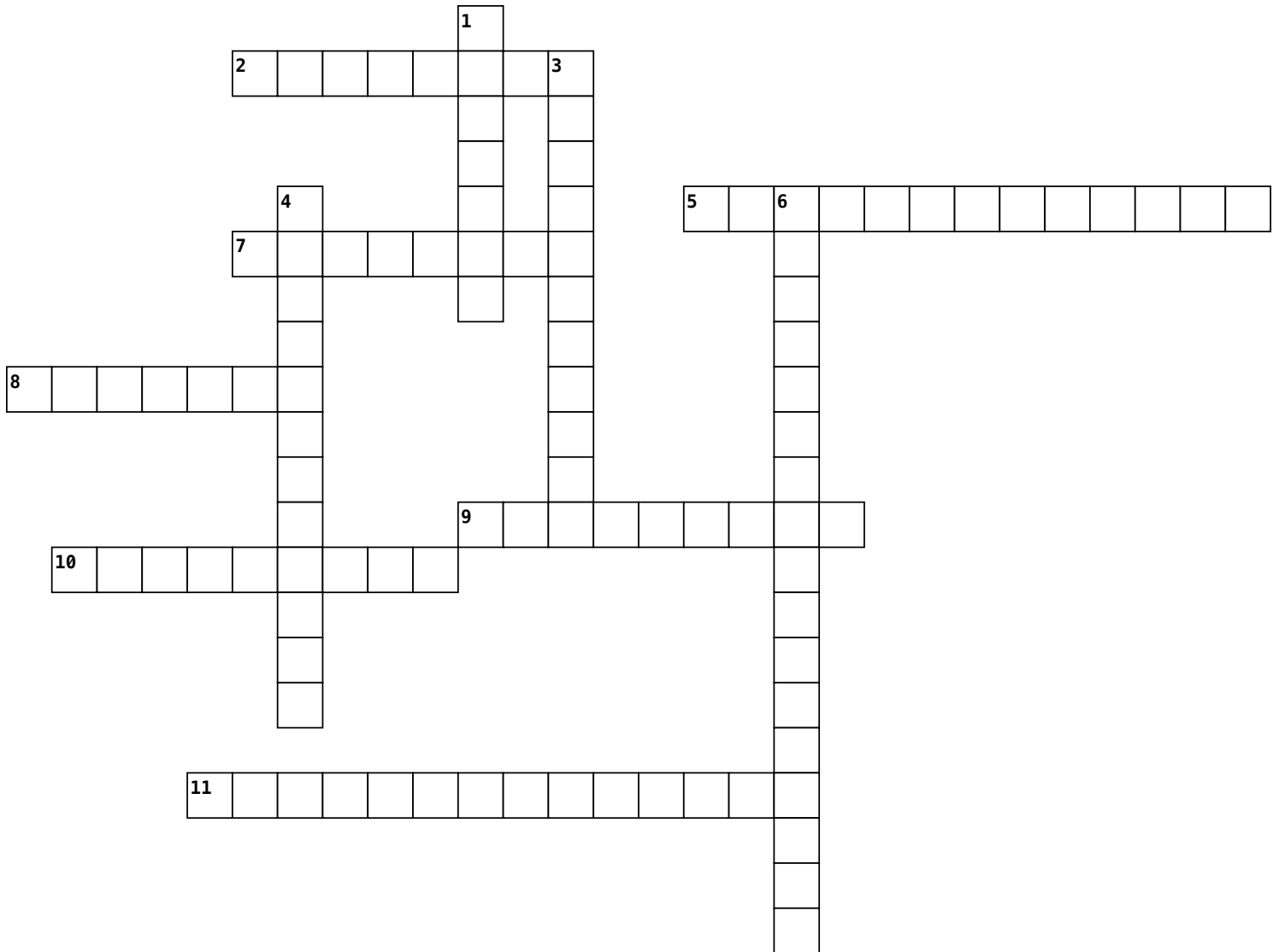
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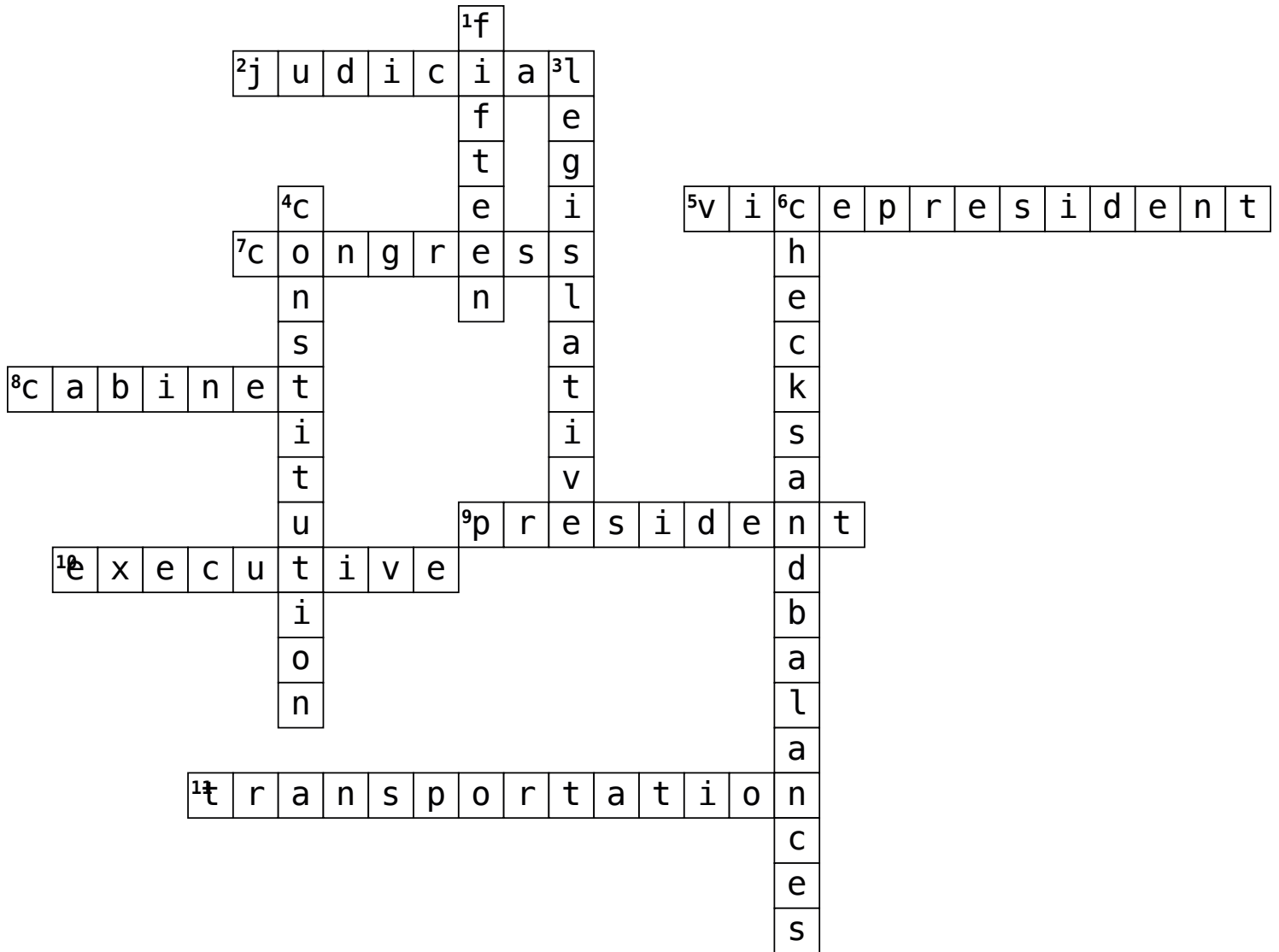
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