

The President's Cabinet

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Teaching Objectives

This exercise is designed to let students hone their reasoning and memory skills on the President's Cabinet.

Using Reasoning

Before students start the exercise, point out that looking for different words that refer to the same subject area—like schools and education—is one good way to use their reasoning skills to make “an educated guess.”

Later when you are checking this exercise aloud with the class, ask the students what connections they were able to see. They may have noted a reasonable connection between the Secretary of Defense with military forces. Similarly, the Secretary of Education probably has something to do with schools, and the Secretary of Agriculture most likely has a connection to farm income. What other connections did they see?

Answer Key

1 D	6 E	11 H
2 F	7 J	12 I
3 A	8 G	13 N
4 B	9 K	14 O
5 C	10 L	15 M

Honing Memory

After students complete and check their matches, ask them to turn over their papers and see how many of the Secretaries in the President's Cabinet they can remember and write or name.

Ask students to identify (class discussion) what triggers their memory for the positions that they remember. It may be the daily news (for positions like the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs). It may be that one position is different (the Attorney General does not include the word "Secretary"). Perhaps they have some other method of remembering one or more of the Cabinet members. By hearing the way their classmates remember, your students may pick up ideas that will stick with them and help them remember the positions in the President's Cabinet.

Check their memory for Cabinet members again at a later time, perhaps at the end of this class or during the next class.

The President's Cabinet

What do they do? In the blank after each Secretary, put the letter of the alphabet that identifies what that Secretary does. (Hint: The answer is not always on the same page as the question.)



1. Secretary of Agriculture _____

A Provides the military forces to protect the U.S.A.



2. Secretary of Commerce _____

B Coordinates federal assistance to schools. Ensures equal access and promotes excellence.



3. Secretary of Defense _____

C Provides the scientific/technical foundation for energy use to ensure a productive economy, a quality environment, and a secure national defense.



4. Secretary of Education _____

D Works to maintain farm income and land conservation. Expands markets abroad for U.S.-grown food. Safeguards and ensures quality food supply.



5. Secretary of Energy _____

E Advises the President on health, welfare, and income security plans, policies, and programs.



6. Secretary of Health and Human Services _____

F Promotes international trade, economic growth, and technical advances. Grants patents and trademarks.



7. Department of Homeland Security _____

G Administers programs concerned with the nation's housing needs, fairness of opportunity, and community improvement.



8. Secretary of Housing And Urban Development _____

H Promotes and protects the welfare of wage earners.



9. Secretary of the Interior _____

I Advises the President on foreign policy.



10. Attorney General _____

J Works to prevent or minimize danger from potential terrorist attacks and natural disasters.



11. Secretary of Labor _____

K Manages the nation's public lands, minerals, national parks, and wildlife refuges. Upholds Federal responsibilities to Indian tribes.



12. Secretary of State _____

L Safeguards citizens by enforcing the law in the public interest.



13. Secretary of Transportation _____

M Operates programs for those who have served in the military and their families.



14. Secretary of the Treasury _____

N Develops policies for highways, mass transit, railroads, aviation, waterways, ports, and oil and gas pipelines.



15. Secretary of Veterans Affairs _____

O U.S. Government agent. Recommends economic, financial, tax, and fiscal policies. Manufactures coins and currency.