

# Cabinet Building I Civics Answers Key

**Teacher's Guide**

**Limiting Government**

**Time Needed:** One Class Period

**Materials Needed:**  
Student worksheets  
PowerPoint

**Copy Instructions:**  
Student packets (double-sided, class set)

**Learning Objectives.** Students will be able to:

- define five "checks" on government.
- critique the presidential actions of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori using the five checks.
- apply the five checks by determining which ones are present in three fictional government systems.
- suggest reasons why it would be dangerous to have a government without checks.

**STEP BY STEP**

☐ **DISTRIBUTE**

the Limiting Government reading.

☐ **READ**

through the story of Alberto Fujimori with your students, stopping to check for understanding and clarify as needed.

☐ **DISTRIBUTE**

the Limiting Government worksheet (pg 1) and guided notes (pg 1).

☐ **REVIEW**

the instructions with students for "Mark it up" and complete the activity as a class.

☐ **REVIEW**

the instructions with students for "Sequence" and "Weigh it out" and give them a set amount of time to complete these activities. Spot check for understanding.

☐ **RUN**

the Limiting Government PowerPoint assisting students in completing the guided notes as you go. Pause to check for understanding and clarify as needed.

☐ **DISTRIBUTE**

the activity sheet. Read each scenario with the class, discussing which checks may apply to each fictional government system. For struggling students, you may want to give a hint about how many limits there are in each scenario. Then, have students fill out the boxes at the bottom of the page to give their opinions.

This lesson plan is part of the Foundations of Government series by iCivics, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing civic education. For more resources, please visit [www.icivics.org/teachers](http://www.icivics.org/teachers), where you can access the state standards aligned to this lesson plan. Provide feedback to [feedback@icivics.org](mailto:feedback@icivics.org).

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**Cabinet building icivics answers key** is a pivotal topic for students and educators engaged in understanding the intricacies of government structure and civic responsibility. The iCivics platform, founded by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, aims to provide students with engaging and interactive ways to learn about civics, government, and the importance of active citizenship. One of the popular activities on this platform is the "Cabinet Builder" game, which helps students grasp the roles and responsibilities of the President's Cabinet in the U.S. government. This article delves into the Cabinet Builder game, its educational significance, and the answers key that supports learners in navigating this interactive experience.

# Understanding the Cabinet Builder Game

The Cabinet Builder game is designed to teach students about the various departments that make up the President's Cabinet, as well as the responsibilities of the individuals who lead these departments. Players are tasked with selecting Cabinet members based on the needs of the nation at a given time, thus providing an engaging way to learn about governmental functions.

## Objectives of the Cabinet Builder Game

The game has several educational objectives, including:

- **Knowledge of Executive Departments:** Players learn about the different departments, such as the Department of Defense, Department of Education, and Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Understanding Leadership Roles:** Students gain insight into the qualifications and responsibilities of Cabinet members.
- **Decision-Making Skills:** The game encourages critical thinking as players must make strategic decisions based on the current needs of the country.
- **Engagement with Civic Education:** The interactive format promotes active participation and engagement with civic concepts.

## Navigating the Game: Key Features

To successfully navigate the Cabinet Builder game, players must understand its key features and mechanics. Here are some essential elements:

### 1. The Selection Process

Players must choose Cabinet members based on various criteria, including:

- **Expertise:** Selecting individuals with experience relevant to their respective departments.
- **Diversity:** Ensuring a diverse Cabinet that reflects the population's demographics.
- **Public Opinion:** Considering how the selections may be perceived by the public and stakeholders.

## 2. Real-Time Challenges

Throughout the game, players encounter various scenarios and challenges that require them to adapt their Cabinet selections. These challenges may include:

- **Economic Crises:** Addressing issues such as unemployment or inflation.
- **Natural Disasters:** Responding to hurricanes, wildfires, or other emergencies.
- **Health Issues:** Managing public health crises, such as pandemics.

## 3. Scoring and Feedback

The game provides immediate feedback on the player's choices, allowing them to understand the implications of their selections. Scoring is based on how well the chosen Cabinet addresses the challenges presented.

## Utilizing the Cabinet Building iCivics Answers Key

For many students, the Cabinet Builder game can be challenging. An answers key can serve as a useful tool to enhance understanding and encourage learning. Here's how to effectively utilize the answers key:

### 1. Review After Gameplay

After completing the game, players should review the answers key to:

- Identify correct choices and understand why they were effective.
- Gain insight into alternative strategies that could have been employed.
- Reflect on the lessons learned about leadership and decision-making in government.

### 2. Group Discussions

Educators can facilitate group discussions using the answers key to promote collaborative learning. Discussions can focus on:

- The importance of each Cabinet position and its impact on governance.

- How different selections might change the outcome of the scenarios presented in the game.
- Real-world parallels to the decisions made in the game.

### 3. Supplemental Resources

The answers key can guide students toward additional resources, such as:

- **Government Websites:** Directing students to official websites for each Cabinet department for further exploration.
- **Current Events:** Encouraging students to follow current events related to Cabinet decisions and actions.
- **Civics Curriculum:** Suggesting further civics education resources for deeper understanding.

## The Importance of Understanding the Cabinet

Understanding the Cabinet's role in the U.S. government is crucial for several reasons:

### 1. Civic Awareness

Knowledge of the Cabinet promotes civic awareness, helping students understand how government operates and the importance of each department in serving the public.

### 2. Critical Thinking Skills

Engaging with the Cabinet Builder game fosters critical thinking skills as students must assess situations, analyze options, and make informed decisions.

### 3. Empowering Future Leaders

By learning about the responsibilities of Cabinet members, students are empowered to consider future roles in public service and leadership.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, the **Cabinet building iCivics answers key** is an invaluable resource for students and educators alike. By engaging with the Cabinet Builder game, learners can develop a deeper understanding of government functions, the importance of civic engagement, and the complexities of decision-making in leadership roles. The answers key not only enhances gameplay but also serves as a bridge to a more comprehensive understanding of the U.S. government, encouraging students to become informed and active participants in their democracy. Whether through individual study or collaborative discussions, the knowledge gained from this interactive experience can shape the next generation of civic-minded citizens.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the purpose of the Cabinet in the U.S. government?**

The Cabinet serves as a group of advisors to the President, assisting in decision-making and administration of executive branch policies.

### **How many members are there in the U.S. Cabinet?**

There are currently 15 executive departments in the U.S. Cabinet, each led by a Secretary.

### **Who appoints the members of the Cabinet?**

The President appoints Cabinet members, who must then be confirmed by the Senate.

### **What role does the Vice President play in the Cabinet?**

The Vice President is a member of the Cabinet and often participates in discussions and decision-making.

### **Can Cabinet members be removed from their position?**

Yes, the President has the authority to dismiss Cabinet members at any time.

### **What is the significance of Cabinet meetings?**

Cabinet meetings provide a forum for the President and Cabinet members to discuss important issues, coordinate policies, and make collective decisions.

### **How does the Cabinet influence public policy?**

Cabinet members help shape and implement federal policies in their respective areas, providing expertise and guidance to the President.

### **What is the historical origin of the U.S. Cabinet?**

The Cabinet was established by George Washington in 1789, forming the first

group of advisors to assist him in governing the nation.

## **How often do Cabinet meetings occur?**

Cabinet meetings can vary in frequency but typically occur once a month or as needed based on pressing issues.

## **What is the role of the Cabinet in times of crisis?**

During crises, the Cabinet plays a crucial role in advising the President on responses, coordinating federal actions, and communicating with the public.

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