OVERVIEW

Part I: Review the Constitution
Part II: The Founding Story—Focused on the Constitutional Convention
Part III: Tests of Presidential Power (Can he do that?)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is the job of the President? What powers and responsibilities does the Constitution give to the President?
- How did the Founding generation come up with the idea of the President, and what were their worries?
- Which presidential powers were written down, and what has been defined over time?
- What was the Founding generation’s vision for the President?
- How has the President’s role in our constitutional system changed over time?
  What are some of the modern debates over the Presidency? (Like executive orders.)

BIG IDEAS TO REVIEW

Big Idea: With the new President, the Founding generation set out to establish an executive head stronger than the weak Governors in charge of the states at the time, but weaker than a king.

Big Idea: From the Youngstown decision?
When the President acts side by side with Congress, his power is at its highest level. (The Supreme Court tends to uphold his actions.)

But when the President acts on his own—especially in the face of congressional disapproval—his powers are at their lowest level. (And the Supreme Court may rule against him.)