Station #1

Presidential Cabinet

As the first president, George Washington set several precedents; among these was the presidential cabinet. The Presidential Cabinet is the heads of the executive departments that meet and advise the president. Cabinet members are selected by the president and are approved by the Senate. George Washington had a four-member cabinet, which included: Secretary of State – Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Treasury – Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War – Henry Knox and Attorney General – Edmund Randolph. Over our country's history the cabinet has been expanded to include the Vice-President and 15 cabinet departments.

Look at the selection from Article II of the U.S. Constitution, which Washington used to justify his creation of a cabinet.

*From the United States Constitution*

Article II - The Executive Branch

Section 2 - Civilian Power over Military, Cabinet, Pardon Power, Appointments

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments*, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

*Executive Departments – offices in the executive branch

Foldable instructions

1. On the top outside flap, write cabinet and draw a picture to represent the cabinet.
2. On the top inside flap, describe the job of the presidential cabinet
3. On the bottom inside flap, answer the following question? Looking at the section of the constitution above, why do you think that Washington created a cabinet?