

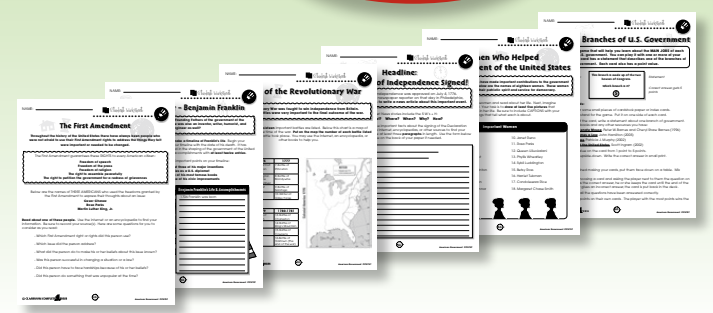
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Three Branches of the Federal Government

Fill in each blank with the correct term. You may use a dictionary if you wish. Some terms will be used more than once. Some terms will be left over.

separation Congress	powers The Senate executive	justices judiciary President	judicial The House of Representatives veto	legislative bill
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- The three branches of the federal government are the _____ branch, the _____ branch, and the _____ branch.
- The House of Representatives and the Senate are the divisions of _____.
- Only the President can _____ or stop a bill from becoming a law.
- The chief executive of the United States is called the _____.
- Another name for Supreme Court judges is Supreme Court _____.
- The branch of government which makes decisions about the laws of the land is called the _____ branch.
- The branch of government which makes sure that the laws are followed is called the _____ branch.
- The branch of government which enacts laws is called the _____ branch.
- _____ of _____ means that one person or branch of government never has all power over the citizens.
- Another name for a law that has not yet been approved by the President is a _____.



Three Branches of the Federal Government

After the war with Britain, the writers of the Constitution knew that the best system of government would be one that split its control among two or more people or groups. This idea is called **separation of powers**. They gave the new government three branches. Each one would have its own jobs and responsibilities. Also, each branch would be able to check on the others' work. This is called a **system of checks and balances**. The goal would be to make sure that the citizens' rights were always protected.

The three branches of the U.S. government are the **legislative, executive, and judicial**. The Constitution describes the duties that each branch has and the titles of the people who carry out these duties. Each branch must follow the Constitution at all times. The headquarters for each branch of government is in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital.

The **executive branch** makes sure that the laws of the country are obeyed. The **President** is the head of the executive branch. The executive branch is very large because many people and groups are needed to help the President. The **Vice President** is the President's main helper. Others who assist are the President's **Cabinet**. Article Two of the Constitution established the executive branch.



Do You Know? What are the three branches of the United States government? Which document describes the duties of each branch?

The **judicial branch** answers questions about the meaning of laws and whether or not they follow the Constitution. The highest court in the judicial branch is called the **Supreme Court**. Nine judges or **Supreme Court Justices** make decisions about laws and other court matters. The head of the Supreme Court is called the **Chief Justice**. Article Three of the Constitution established the judicial branch.



Three Branches of the Federal Government

1. **Circle** the word True if the statement is true. **Circle** the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- After the war with Britain, the writers of the Constitution wanted to have a monarchy.
True False _____
- A system of checks and balances means that only Congress members can measure roads and check railroad train cars.
True False _____
- The main goal of the separation of powers is to make sure that no person or group has all the power in the government.
True False _____
- The main job of the executive branch of the government is to make sure that all laws are obeyed.
True False _____
- The President's main helper is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
True False _____
- The judicial branch must make sure that all laws agree with the Constitution.
True False _____
- The head of the Supreme Court is called the superior judge.
True False _____
- The House of Representatives and the Senate make the laws for the country.
True False _____
- It is not important for citizens' rights to be considered in government.
True False _____



Here are six writing tasks about the government of the United States. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the United States government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

Task #1 Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. Organize your thoughts and knowledge about government and discuss the purpose(s) of government. In the United States' system of government, who or what are most important?

Task #2 The Constitution of the United States has a very important purpose for its government. What is that purpose? What is the Constitution sometimes called?

Task #3 The Declaration of Independence states that all citizens have certain rights. What are three of these rights? What document gives the citizens these and other rights?

Task #4 Rights always come along with responsibilities. Think about the rights you discussed in Writing Task 3 as well as others. Discuss at least one of the responsibilities that comes along with them.

Task #5 All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, poverty). If you were president of the United States, which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

Task #6 The powers of all three branches of the U.S. government are equal. What document limits the powers of each branch? What is this limiting of powers called? Do you think that these limitations are good or bad? Tell why.



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

impeach	rights
enforce	nine
ratify	elected
Congress	nominate
government	Senate
House	resign
sen	George
democracy	good
	power
	term
	defend
	anarchy
	veto

Across

- The person or group of people who make the rules or laws for everyone else
- In the United States government, leaders are _____ or chosen by the people
- The ability to control someone or something
- To put the president on trial
- Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the _____
- To keep safe from danger or attack
- Privileges that are due to people by law
- To approve a rule or a law
- To say no to a proposed law or bill
- _____ Franklin
- _____ Washington

Down

- A government should provide for the common _____ of its citizens
- To command obedience to
- The number of justices (judges) on the U.S. Supreme Court
- Length of time in elected office
- Makes federal laws
- Exists when there is no government in a country
- To choose or select
- A form of government in which the people choose who governs them
- The _____ of Representatives
- To quit or leave office



Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

g	a	b	c	d	e	f	h	i	j	k	l	n	n	o	n	p	q	
r	o	s	t	u	s	m	s	e	t	w	j	u	d	g	e	s		
r	x	v	y	r	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	u	g	h	i	i	w	
j	a	k	e	l	l	m	c	h	e	c	k	s	n	o	s	p	a	
q	r	w	s	r	t	o	u	y	w	x	y	t	z	a	e	b	l	
c	o	d	e	f	n	g	h	i	o	j	k	i	l	m	r	n	o	
p	p	q	r	g	s	m	t	t	u	v	w	c	x	y	z	a	b	
c	d	e	r	f	g	h	e	i	j	k	l	e	t	a	b	e	d	
m	n	e	o	p	q	v	r	s	e	t	c	u	v	w	e	x		
y	s	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	t	g	l	h	i	j	m	k	l	
s	m	n	o	p	e	q	r	o	s	e	t	e	u	o	v	w	x	
y	z	a	b	c	m	o	v	e	r	f	g	h	c	i	j	k	n	
l	m	l	n	o	e	p	q	k	r	s	t	r	u	t	v	o	w	
x	s	e	n	a	t	o	r	y	z	a	a	b	c	d	i	e	f	
g	h	a	i	j	a	k	l	m	n	c	o	n	p	t	q	o	r	
s	t	d	u	v	l	w	x	y	y	z	a	b	a	c	d	e	n	
h	f	e	a	n	s	i	j	k	l	m	n	n	o	r	p	q	r	
c	s	r	a	i	f	y	n	g	i	a	p	m	a	c	t	u		
n	v	w	x	y	g	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	h	j	
a	k	l	p	r	e	s	i	d	e	n	t	m	n	o	p	q	y	
r	r	s	o	t	l	u	v	w	x	y	z	p	a	r	t	y	a	
b	i	l	l	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	u	l	m	n	
o	p	q	l	a	n	o	i	t	u	t	i	t	s	n	o	c	r	



Comprehension Quiz

Part B

Answer each question in complete sentences.

- Explain why the framers of the Constitution built a system of **checks and balances** into the three branches of government. 1

- Briefly tell how a bill becomes a federal law. 3

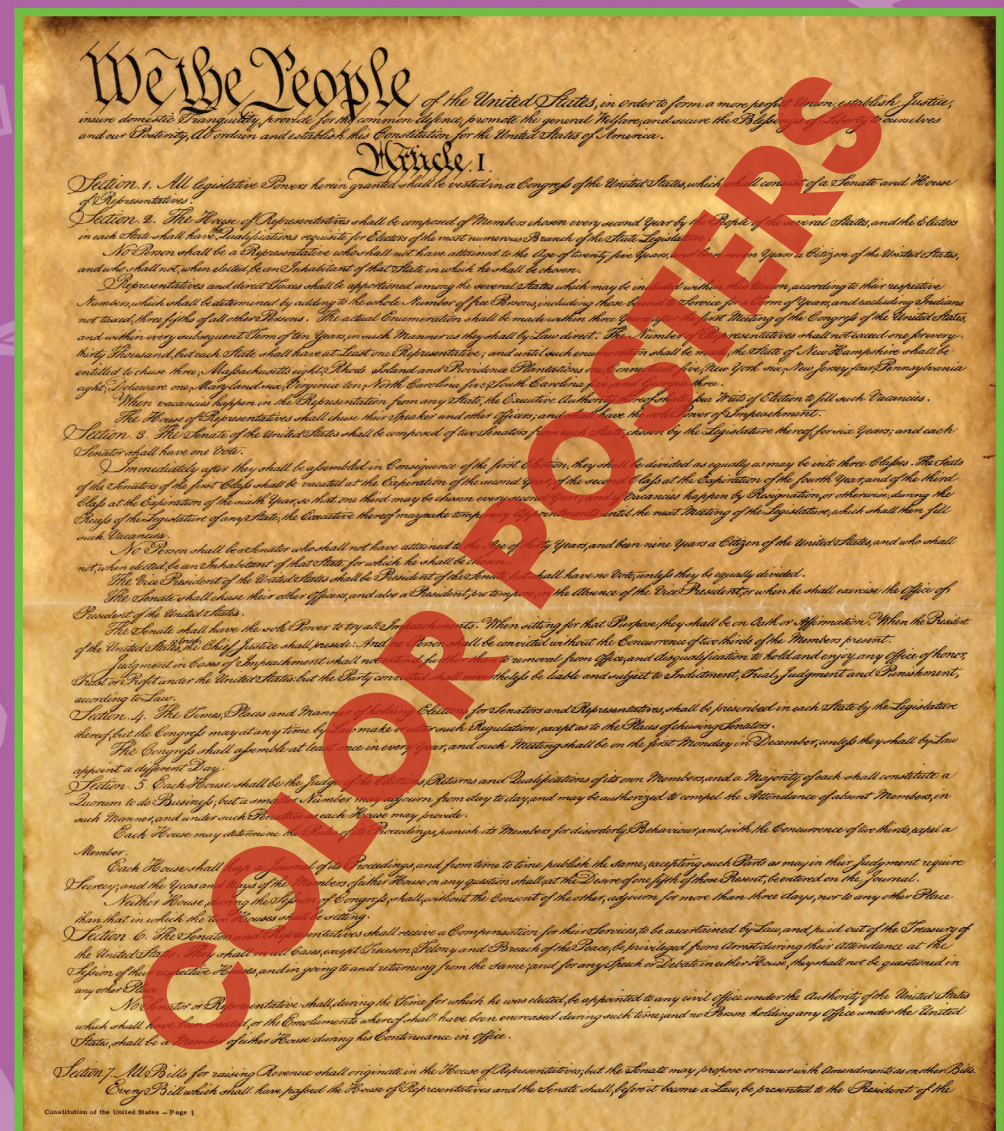
- Describe the qualifications a person must have to run for **president** or **vice-president** of the United States. 3

- Name each **branch** of the federal government and tell what each one does. 6

- What form(s) of government is the best for its citizens and why? 2

SUBTOTAL: /15

The Constitution of the United States



NAME: _____

After You Read 



Three Branches of the Federal Government

Answer the following questions in your notebook.

- Compare the duties of the executive branch of government with those of the judicial branch.
- Name three qualities that a good President of the United States should have.
- The members of Congress represent all the people who live in their state or district. Why is it important for them to know how these people feel about the issues and problems that exist there?

5. Become a Research Detective!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to help you find the following:

The president's cabinet is made up of fifteen departments, several advisors and the Vice President.

The fifteen departments are listed below. What is the **main job** of each department? Write your answers in your notebook.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Department of State | 2. Department of the Treasury |
| 3. Department of Defense | 4. Department of the Interior |
| 5. Department of Justice | 6. Department of Agriculture |
| 7. Department of Commerce | 8. Department of Labor |
| 9. Department of Housing and Urban Development | |
| 10. Department of Transportation | 11. Department of Energy |
| 12. Department of Education Services | 13. Department of Health and Human Services |
| 14. Department of Veterans' Affairs | 15. Department of Homeland Security |

2.
any reasonable answer

3.
any reasonable answer

4.
any reasonable answer

5.
other countries to carry out president's
policy, set tax policy, print currency
control U.S. armed forces
federal lands and natural resources
federal laws are obeyed, supervise
s, act as top lawyer for the U.S., give legal
cabinet members
fect food
other countries, help
businesses that trade with other countries,
ns, give weather information, take
patients
for worker safety, help unemployed
be federal labor laws
e find homes, fund housing needs,
for housing
sportation including the U.S. Coast
sident on the country's energy needs,
ergy sources
ograms to improve education, enforce
n laws, provide financial aid programs
nd parents, provide money for drug
programs for people with disabilities,
nd poor with financial needs, ensure the
re for all citizens
enefits for veterans (i.e. pensions, medical
ors' benefits, Training)
reats from foreign terrorists, enforce
curity laws, prevent further terrorist

11

Answers will vary

Across:

- government
- elected
- power
- impeach
- Senate
- defend
- rights
- ratify
- veto
- Ben
- George

Down:

- good
- enforce
- nine
- term
- Congress
- anarchy
- nominate
- democracy
- House
- resign

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

