

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT DO THEY DO?

3 Branches of U.S. Government

Read the Information and answer the questions.

Our country's Founding Fathers, the writers of the U.S. Constitution, wanted to create a strong national government. They also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have too much power. That's why they separated the government's powers into three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

Legislative

Members: **Congress and House of Representatives**



U.S Capitol

- The members of Congress —100 senators and 435 representatives.
- The Vice President of the U.S. is considered the head of the Senate
- The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws, write bills, then vote on whether or not the bills should become laws.
- Collecting and spending money from taxes.
- Declare war.

Executive

Members: **The President, Vice President and Cabinet members**



White House

The President:

- Signs bills into laws.
- Vetoes or rejects bills.
- Appoint Supreme Court justices.
- Meets with foreign leaders and negotiates treaties.
- Is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.
- The cabinet gives advice to the President about important matters.

Judicial

Members: **9 Supreme Court Justices**



Supreme Court

- Members are appointed by the President and serve life-long terms.
- The Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch and is the highest court in the country.
- Its decisions are final, and no other court can overrule those decisions.
- Decides if laws agree with the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

1. Why were the 3 branches of Government established? _____
2. What is the most important duty of the legislative branch? _____
3. Who signs bills into laws? _____
4. Who gives advice to the President about important matters? _____
5. Which branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution? _____

Name: _____ Hr: _____ Date: _____

Who's Got the Power

Directions: Complete the chart below by identifying which branch of government possess each of the powers. Use Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution to help you.

Power	Branch of Government (Legislative, Executive, Judicial)
Introduces laws	
Declares laws unconstitutional	
Signs bills into law	
Coins money	
Nominates Supreme Court Justices	
Declares War	
Vetoes bills	
Interprets/Makes meaning of laws	
Serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces (army, navy, air force)	
Issues a pardon	
Overrides a presential veto	
Borrows money on behalf of the United States	
Makes treaties	
Impeaches/Removes the president	

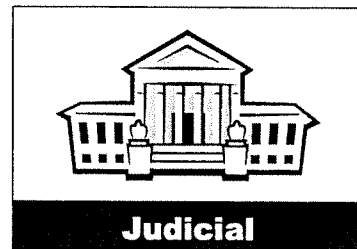
Name: _____

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TRUE or FALSE?

3 Branches of U.S. Government

Direction: Read the statement. Answer true or false..



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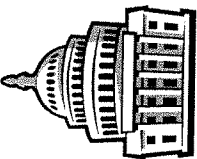
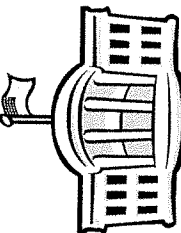
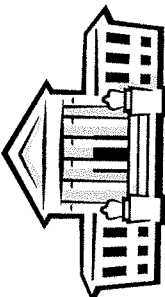
	Statement	True / False
1.	Congress is made up of 100 judges and 435 representatives.	
2.	The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws.	
3.	It is the responsibility of the judicial branch to Collect and spend money from taxes.	
4.	The U.S. Government is spilt into 3 branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.	
5.	The President signs bills into laws.	
6.	The Supreme Court gives advice to the President about important matters.	
7.	Decisions made by the Supreme Court are final, and cannot be overruled.	
8.	The Executive branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution.	
9.	The Vice-President is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.	
10.	The President appoints Supreme Court justices.	

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3 Branches of Government – POWER MATCH

Read the fact, and then fill the in answer with one of the 3 - Legislative, Executive or Judicial.

	 Legislative	 Executive	 Judicial
	This branch has the POWER to:		
1.	Sign bills into laws.		
2.	Declare laws unconstitutional.		
3.	Make laws and write bills.		
4.	Vote on whether or not the bills should become laws.		
5.	Veto or reject bills.		
6.	Decide if laws agree with the Constitution.		
7.	Declare war.		
8.	Make the final decision - no other court can overrule those decisions.		
9.	Approve and carry out laws passed by the Legislative branch.		
10.	Collect and spend money from taxes.		
			Answer