

Name: _____ Hr: _____ Date: _____

Ch. 6, Section 1- Understanding the Constitution

1.) A _____ is one that divides powers between state and federal government.

2.) **Activity:** Give One, Get One:

Give one example of a state, federal and shared power based on the video:

A.) State (reserved powers):

B.) Federal (delegated powers):

C.) Shared (concurrent):

3.) What are the three branches of government? What makes up each?

A.)

B.)

C.)

4.) Separation of Powers (video):

A.) List two jobs of the legislative branch :

B.) List two jobs of the executive branch:

C.) List two jobs of judicial branch:

D.) List three things that people do that requires a sound understanding of government:

Checks and Balances

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Constitution established three distinct branches of government and gave each branch its powers. However, the Constitution also limits the powers of the three branches. A system of checks and balances ensures no one branch of government is able to abuse its power or become too powerful. Each branch has responsibilities and authority, but actions are checked and approved by the other branches.

Checks and Balances Example

The legislative branch, Congress, introduces a bill. Representatives vote and a majority vote passes the bill. The bill then goes to the executive branch for approval.

The executive branch has the power to approve or veto the bill. If the president, for example, does not approve of the bill, the president may veto it and send it back to Congress.

If the president vetoes the bill, Congress can check the power of the president by overruling the executive veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

Once a bill becomes a law, the judicial branch is responsible for interpreting the laws. The judicial branch has the power of judicial review. This means that the judicial branch can determine whether or not a law is constitutional (legal). This may be the end of the law—or not. The legislative branch may introduce a new bill very similar to the one that was revoked by the judicial branch. The process would then start all over again.

1. Explain the relationship between “separation of powers” and “checks and balances.”
2. The legislative branch has the power to pass laws.
 - A. What can the executive branch do to check the legislative branch?
 - B. What can the legislative branch do to check the executive branch?
 - C. What can the judicial branch do to check the legislative branch?
 - D. What can the legislative branch do to check the judicial branch?