



Name _____

Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:



7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #76

Aims: SWBAT define the legislative, executive and judicial powers
 SWBAT identify the three branches of government and the powers of each
 SWBAT explain separation of powers

DO NOW

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete and historically accurate sentences. Use your notes and knowledge of history. You **MUST** annotate your answers, which means cross off the question stem, capitalize the first letter, and cross off the question mark.

State	# of Senators	# of Representatives in the House of Representatives	Total # of Representatives	# of Electoral Votes
California		53		
Delaware		1		

2. If you are a campaign manager where are you going to spend a majority of your time? Explain

3. Each candidate either wins **ALL** or **NONE** of the Electoral Votes. The candidate with the most electoral votes wins ALL of the Electoral votes. The other candidates win NO electoral votes.

<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Electoral Votes</u>
New York	31



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If Hillary Clinton wins 60% of the vote in New York and Bobby Jindal wins 40% of the vote in New York, how many electoral votes does Clinton win? How many does Jindal win?

From which branch of government do we get the numbers for the Electoral College?



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Overview

There are three powers of government – legislative, executive, and judicial. In some countries, all of these powers are given to one person or one group. In the United States however, we give each power to a different person or group. This is called

_____.

Legislative Power	
Executive Power	
Judicial Power	

I. Identifying Governmental Powers

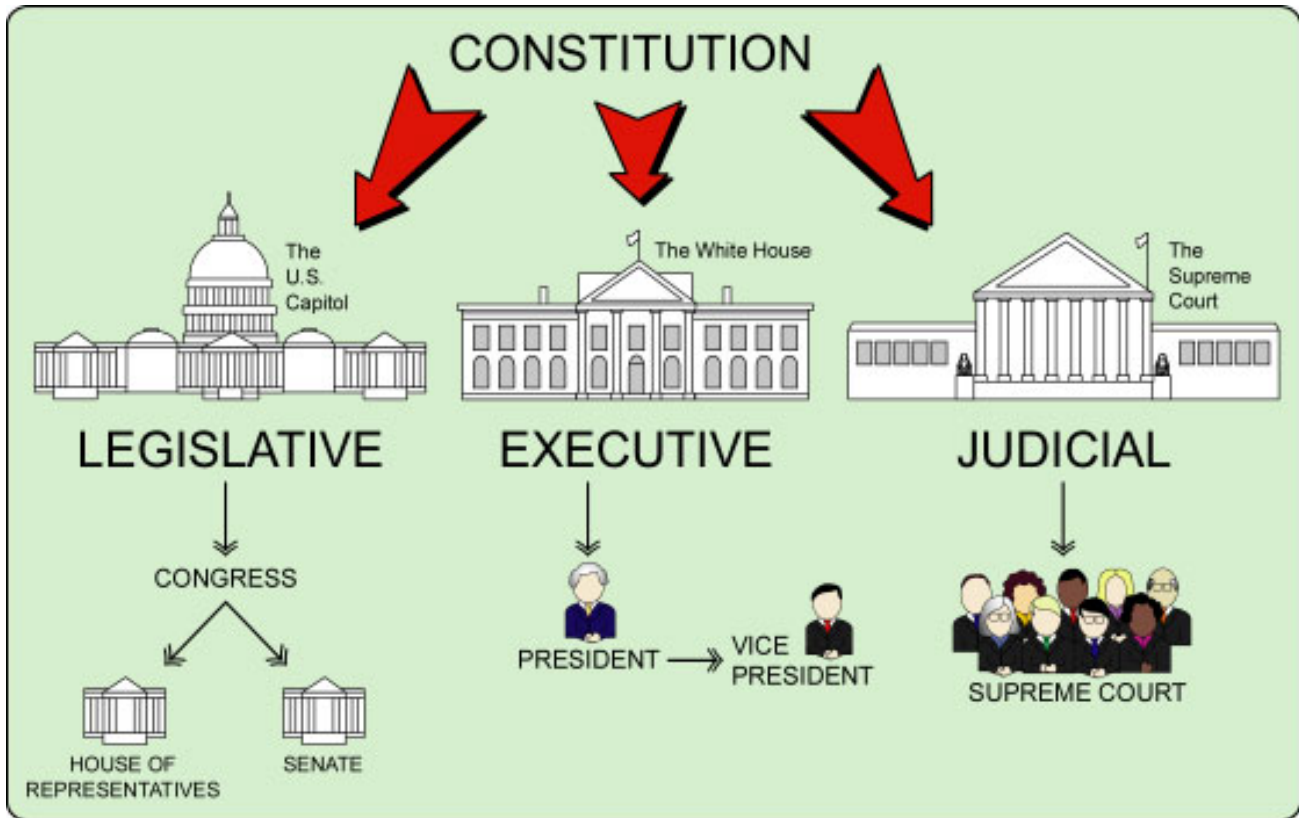
Directions: For each of the situations below, identify whether it’s a legislative power, executive power, or judicial power being exercised.

1. Ms. Brown realizes that tardiness is a problem. Everyday many scholars are showing up late to AM homeroom. She adds a new class rule that late scholars must stand for the entire period.
 - a. Power: _____
2. Ms. Brown implements a bathroom sign-out chart in order to help enforce the bathroom policy
 - a. Power: _____
3. Ms. Brown notices that the grading numbers in her grade-book do not add up to 100%. She announces that tests, quizzes and projects will be worth 50% of the final grade instead of 30%.
 - a. Power: _____
4. Ms. Brown walks around the classroom to make sure that scholars are not using cell phones in class. She takes cell phones from scholars who are using them.
 - a. Power: _____
5. A scholar rolls a pencil on the floor with their foot during independent practice and she considers whether this noise is a violation of the silence rule. She decides that the pencil roll is not allowed based on that rule.
 - a. Power: _____



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In this classroom, Ms. Brown has the legislative, executive, and judicial powers (all three). Why might the authors of our Constitution have given these powers to different groups of people?





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I. Identifying the Branch of Government

Directions: For each of the following actions, write which branch of government (legislative, executive, judicial) would have the power to do it and who the leader of that branch is.

The punishment for stealing more than \$5000 is increased from 2 years in prison to 3 years in prison

Branch: _____ Head of Branch: _____

It is decided that a person did break copyright laws by copying 2 sentences from the Government textbook without giving credit to the authors of the textbook.

Branch: _____ Head of Branch: _____

A man is stopped for speeding

Branch: _____ Head of Branch: _____

Quick Vocab

Separation of Powers



“The purse and the sword shall not be in the same hands.”
- George Mason

Purse = _____

Sword = _____

Summarize the idea behind this quote:

The power of the purse belongs to the _____ branch

The power of the sword belongs to the _____ branch



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II. Looking at the News

Directions: Read each of the excerpts from the news articles and answer the questions that follow in **complete sentences**.

Supreme Court Rules Individuals Have Right to Own Guns

Posted: June 27, 2008

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court said Americans have the right to own guns for self defense -- the court's first ruling on the Second Amendment in nearly 70 years.

The 5-4 vote struck down a Washington, D.C., law banning hand guns. It was the first time the Supreme Court has conclusively interpreted the "right to bear arms."

The Second Amendment reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The case brought before the court required the justices decide if the amendment protects the rights of individuals to own guns, or if that right is only for those involved in a state militia. The court determined the amendment does apply to individuals.

1. What was the Supreme Court required to interpret?

2. How did they end up interpreting it?

3. Which type of power was exercised in this article (legislative, executive, or judicial)?





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4. In the wake of the Sandy Hook Tragedy, what is your opinion on gun control? Should individuals have the right to be bear arms or should we have tougher rules on gun ownership?

Article 2

Lawmakers Target Mandatory Testing in Education Law

Posted: 03.21.07

The amount of testing in public schools and whether it is replacing creative classes is being debated in the nation's capital as a growing number of school administrators and parents pressure lawmakers to come up with alternatives to President Bush's education policy.

"Republicans and Democrats agree that burdensome regulations are preventing our schools and students from achieving their best," Republican Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina said last week.

Jim DeMint and John Cornyn of Texas introduced the Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act (A-PLUS), which would allow states to opt out of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

A similar bill was introduced in the House of Representatives

- 1. The headline of this article refers to "lawmakers." What group makes laws in the United States?

- 2. What are lawmakers debating?

- 3. Do you think the Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act should become law? Why or why not?



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Obama Signs 9/11 Health Bill

The new law will provide medical care to rescue workers and others who became ill after the September 11 terrorist attacks

JANUARY 03, 2011

By Brenda Iasevoli

On Sunday, President Barack Obama signed a bill to provide health care for rescue workers who became sick from toxic fumes after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"We will never forget the selfless courage demonstrated by the firefighters, police officers and first responders who risked their lives to save others," said Obama. "I believe this is a critical step for those who continue to bear the physical scars of those attacks."

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was named after a New York City police officer. Zadroga died in 2006 of a respiratory disease that supporters of the bill say he contracted during the September 11 rescue operations.

A Tragic Day

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks, often referred to as 9/11. On that day, two hijacked jetliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third hijacked plane flew into the Pentagon, in Arlington, Virginia, which houses the U.S. Department of Defense offices. A fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

Help on the Way

Nearly 16,000 rescue workers and 2,700 people living near the site of the World Trade Center are currently sick and receiving medical treatment. The new law will provide \$4.2 billion in aid to treat illnesses related to the attacks.

"At long last, the President's signature has ended our nine-year struggle to address the 9/11 health crisis," said Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York. "The Zadroga law will save lives and fulfills our moral obligation to care for those who rose to the defense of America in a time of war."

1. What is the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act?

2. What is the main responsibility of the President?

3. Which branch of government does the President lead?



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The Three Branches of Government HOMEWORK

_____/26 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

Directions: Read the text on the following page, draw a simple illustration at the top of the column to represent that branch of government. Then complete the column.

	3 Legislative Branch		4 Executive Branch	5 Judicial Branch
	Congress House	Senate	Office of the President	Supreme Court
Number of Members				
Length of Term				
Are members elected or appointed?				
Age Requirement				
Citizenship Requirement				
Two or More Powers of This Branch of Government				



The Legislative Branch Makes Laws

For the framers of the Constitution, the first step in building a trusted government was to create a fair way to make laws. Article I of the Constitution gives the power to make laws to the **legislative branch**¹ of government.

The Structure of Congress The Constitution creates a **bicameral** (two part) national legislature, called Congress. The two parts, or “houses,” of Congress are the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Members of the Senate enjoy six-

year terms so they can enjoy some independence from the day-to-day opinions of voters. In contrast, members of the House serve two-year terms. As a result, they have to face voters much more often.

The framers also designed Congress to balance the rights of large and small states. Thus, while every state gets two senators, representation in the house is based on population. States with more people have more House representatives. In time, the number of representatives in the House was set at 435.

The framers considered the Senate to be the “upper house: of the legislature. It’s members should be wiser and more experienced than members of the “lower house.” Senators must be at least 30 years old, while House members must be 25. Senators must have been citizens for 9 years, House members for just 7 years.

Originally, the Constitution allowed state legislatures to choose the two senators to represent their state. Today, however, senators are elected by popular vote (direct vote by the people).

The Powers of Congress Article I spells out other powers of Congress. For example, only Congress can decide how to spend the money raised through taxes. Other congressional powers include the power to raise an army and navy, to declare war, to pay government debts, and to grant citizenship.

The Executive Branch Carries Out the Laws

A government needs people to carry out, or execute, the laws passed by the legislature. For instance when Congress approves a tax, someone must collect the money. Article II of the Constitution describes the branch of government that fills this role, the **executive branch**.² The head of the executive branch is the president. The president is often called the Chief Executive

Powers of the Three Branches of Government

		
<p>Legislative Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes the laws • Appropriates funds for laws and programs • Approves treaties and executive appointments • Establishes federal courts 	<p>Executive Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforces the laws • Acts as commander in chief of military • Negotiates treaties • Appoints federal judges and other top officials 	<p>Judicial Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets the laws • Reviews lower-court decisions • Judges whether laws and executive actions are constitutional • Rules on cases between states

The Constitution establishes a government of three branches, with separate powers for each branch. By dividing power, the framers hoped to ensure that no single branch would be too powerful.



Presidents are at the bottom of the American political stage. Here we see President Obama meeting with his cabinet and other close advisors.

¹ Legislative branch: the lawmaking part of government, called the legislature. To legislate is to make law.

² Executive branch: the part of government that carries out, or executes the laws



Article II of the Constitution gives the president the responsibility of commanding the nation's armed forces. Here, President Obama speaks to U.S. troops in Iraq.

Electing the President Delegates at the Constitutional Congress were not prepared to let the people elect the president directly. Instead they decided the president would be selected by a group of electors, called the electoral college. To win the presidency, a candidate needs a majority of electoral votes. (270+ votes).

The president serves a four year term. Under the 22nd Amendment, a president may be reelected only once. A president must be a natural born citizen and at least 35-years old. The Constitution always refers to the president as a "he". The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were all men and probably assumed that only men would ever vote or hold office. Nothing in the Constitution prevents a woman from being elected President.

The Powers of the President In addition to carrying out laws passed by Congress, the President is the commander in chief of the nation's military forces. S/he can, with the consent of the Senate, make treaties, or formal agreements, with other nations. The president nominates, or recommends, ambassadors (official representatives to other countries) and Supreme Court justices (judges). Finally, the President can grant pardons to people convicted of violating federal, or national, laws.

The Judicial Branch Interprets the Law

The framers intended the Constitution to be the "supreme law of the land." That means no other laws or actions by the government or state cannot conflict with the Constitution. Protecting the Constitution is one of the principal responsibilities of the third branch of government, the **judicial branch**³. The judicial branch consists of the system of federal courts and judges.

Article III of the Constitution gives the basic framework of the judicial branch. It establishes the country's highest court, the Supreme Court. It also gives Congress the power to create inferior (lower) courts to meet the nation's needs. Federal courts also have the power to resolve disputes that involve national laws, the federal government, or the states. People accused of breaking national laws can be tried in federal courts.

The Powers of the Supreme Court The Supreme Court is the last stop in the judicial system. Its decisions are final, and they are binding on all lower courts. The Constitution does not specify the size of the Supreme Court. Congress has set the size at nine members, who are called justices. The Constitution says that all federal judges, including Supreme Court Justices, serve for "good behavior." Once they are appointed, justices usually serve on the court for life.

Early in history, the Court defined the power of **judicial review**⁴. This is the power to decide whether laws and acts made by the legislative and executive branches conflict with the Constitution. Courts all over the country rely on the Supreme Court for guidance about what is constitutional. Judicial review gives the Supreme Court great power in its role of protecting the "supreme law of the land."

³ Judicial branch: the part of government, consisting of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts, that interprets the laws

⁴ Judicial review: the power of the Supreme Court to decide whether laws and acts made by the legislative and executive branches are unconstitutional



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**The Three Branches of Government
EXIT TICKET**

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Read the quote below.

“The purse and the sword shall not be in the same hands.” - George Mason

Which of these principles of government is expressed by this statement?

- a. rule of law
- b. executive privilege
- c. popular sovereignty
- d. separation of powers

2. Which of these is a power of the United States Supreme Court?

- a. to interpret laws
- b. to veto laws
- c. to pass laws
- d. to enforce laws

3. Which of these is a power of the President?

- a. make laws
- b. enforce laws
- c. declare war
- d. declare an act of Congress unconstitutional

4. Congress has the power to make laws and the President does not. This is an example of which principle of American democracy?

- a. federalism
- b. separation of powers
- c. limited government
- d. representative government

5. When each candidate wins a state, he or she gets all of those votes, and those votes get added to his or her “bank.” The person with more than 50% of ALL of the electoral votes in the country wins the election. There is a total of 538 Electoral Votes (100 Senators +438 Representatives).

<u>Candidate</u>	<u># Of Electoral Votes That The Candidate Won</u>
Hillary Clinton	300
Mitt Romney	238

According to these numbers, who has won the election? Why?

