

THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



Social Studies

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

- The **Constitution** created a government of three equal **branches**, or parts.
- The Constitution is the plan and set of rules for our **government**.
- The three branches are:

- JUDICIAL
- EXECUTIVE
- LEGISLATIVE



THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- The Constitution created **Congress**.
- It is a group of people elected to make **laws** for the country.
- Bills are what they are before they are approved or become laws.

• CONGRESS HAS TWO PARTS: THE **SENATE** AND THE **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**.



THE SENATE

- **There are 100 senators.**
 - **Each state has two senators.**
 - **A Senator is in office for 6 years. This is called a "term."**
 - **Senators meet in the U.S. Capitol building**
- A senator must be at least 30 years old and must have been a U.S. citizen for nine years.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- There are 435 **representatives**.
- The more people that live in a state, the more representatives it has.
- Representatives serve for a term of two years.
- They can be **elected** for more than one term.
- A representative must be at least 25 years old and must have been a U.S. citizen for seven years



LEGISLATIVE

- Congress Can:
 - Write and pass laws
 - Override presidential vetoes
 - Approve amendments
 - Regulate commerce
 - Control federal taxation
 - Coin money
 - DECLARE WAR
 - Oversee the executive branch
 - IMPEACH the president , Vice President and Judges
 - Approve Presidential appointments

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- The **president**, or **Chief Executive**, is the head of the government and enforces laws. Decides how money is spent
- Americans vote every four years for their leaders of their **democratic society**.
- After elected to serve his/her country, the president lives and works in the **White House**.
- The president is in charge of the **armed forces** as Commander in Chief.
- The president works with leaders of other countries and **negotiates** treaties.



To become president, a person must

- Be at least 35 years old
- Be a native-born citizen
- Have lived in this country for 14 years

EXECUTIVE

- The President Can

- **Negotiate** treaties

- Meet with foreign leaders

- **Pass** into laws bills made by Congress

- **Veto** bills passed by congress

- Grant pardons

- Send **Troops** overseas

CAN ALSO WITH
APPROVAL :

SIGN TREATIES

APPOINT AMBASSADORS

APPOINT **JUSTICES**

APPOINT CABINET
HEADS

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- The **Supreme Court** is the highest court in the U. S., and is the **system of courts** to settle questions about the laws.
- The nine **justices** can **serve** for as long as they live, or wish to retire.
- Can determine law is **unconstitutional**
- The president chooses each justice while the **Senate** confirms that justice.



JUDICIAL

- **The Supreme Court Can:**
 - Rule on court cases that question **interpretation** of the constitution.
 - Supervise the operations of all **federal** courts
 - Overrule decisions about federal laws (or the constitution) made by **state** courts



Democracy: the form of government in
which power is vested in the people and exercised by them
through a system of free elections

Rules !

