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:

- · <u>JUDICIAL</u>
- · EXECUTIVE
- · <u>L</u>EGISLATIVE



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



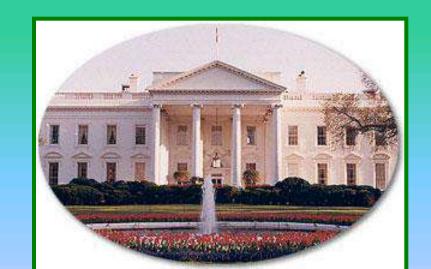
LEGISLATIVE

- 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 , <u>Vice President and Judges</u>
 - Approve Presidential appointments

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- The president, or Chief Executive, is the head of the government and enforces laws. <u>Decides</u> 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 <u>native-born citizen</u>

Have <u>lived in</u> this <u>country</u> for <u>14 years</u>

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
 is the U. S., and is
 the system of courts
 to settle questions
 about the laws.
- The nine justices
 can serve for <u>as long</u>
 as they live, or wish
 to retire.
- Can determine law is <u>unconstitutional</u>

 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!

