

Basic US History  
Unit 3 - The Constitution and Voting  
The Balance of Government - Out Government's Seesaw

The three branches of our government, the Legislative Branch, Executive, and Judicial Branches – each have powers that make them equally powerful. They're like three people who weigh the same taking turns on a seesaw - no matter which two are on the seesaw at opposite ends, they always stay balanced.

Using the information below, fill in the seesaws to show how each branch balances the other.

**Executive Branch (the President):**

Makes treaties with other countries

Carries out laws

Vetoes bills Congress passes if he thinks they are wrong

Appoints judges in the Judicial Branch for a life term

Writes the budget

**Legislative Branch (Congress – House of Representatives and Senate):**

Makes laws

Can override a President's veto of a bill by 2/3 vote

Can impeach a President and judges for misconduct

Must approve presidential appointments for judges and justices

Must approve budget spending and treaties

**Judicial Branch (the Supreme Court and lesser courts):**

Interprets laws

Decides if laws that Congress makes are Constitutional

Decides if decisions that the President makes are Constitutional

Makes \_\_\_\_\_ with other countries.

Carries out \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ bills he does not like.

\_\_\_\_\_ the budget.

\_\_\_\_\_ treaties and budget.

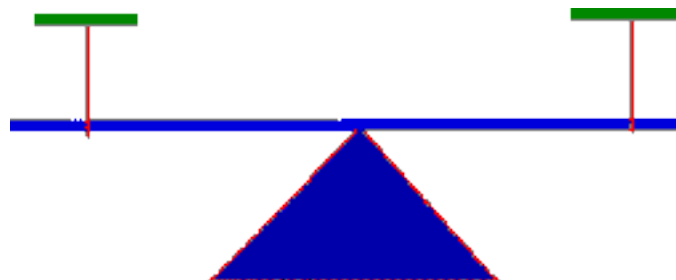
Makes \_\_\_\_\_ .

Overrides President's \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ vote.

Can \_\_\_\_\_ the President for misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)



Interprets \_\_\_\_\_.

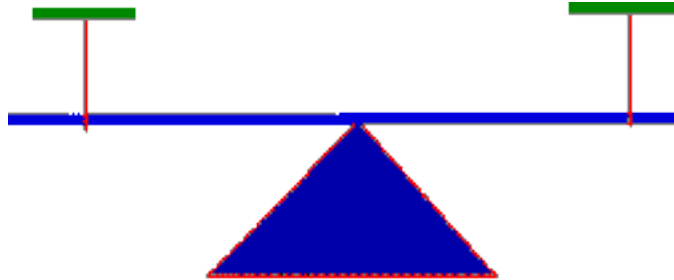
\_\_\_\_\_ presidential  
appointments for \_\_\_\_\_.

Decides if laws are  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Can \_\_\_\_\_ judges for  
misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)



\_\_\_\_\_ judges for a  
\_\_\_\_\_ term.

Decides if presidential actions are  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Which branch is this?)

