

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT DO THEY DO?

## 3 Branches of U.S. Government

Read the information and answer the questions.

Our country's Founding Fathers, the writers of the U.S. Constitution, wanted to create a strong national government. They also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have too much power. That's why they separated the government's powers into three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

### Legislative

Members: Congress and House of Representatives



**U.S. Capitol**

- The members of Congress — 100 senators and 435 representatives.
- The Vice President of the U.S. is considered the head of the Senate
- The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws, write bills, then vote on whether or not the bills should become laws.
- Collecting and spending money from taxes.
- Declare war.

### Executive

Members: The President, Vice President and Cabinet members



**White House**

The President:

- Signs bills into laws.
- Vetoes or rejects bills.
- Appoint Supreme Court justices.
- Meets with foreign leaders and negotiates treaties.
- Is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.
- The cabinet gives advice to the President about important matters.

### Judicial

Members: 9 Supreme Court Justices



**Supreme Court**

- Members are appointed by the President and serve life-long terms.
- The Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch and is the highest court in the country.
- Its decisions are final, and no other court can overrule those decisions.
- Decides if laws agree with the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

1. Why were the 3 branches of Government established? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the most important duty of the legislative branch? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who signs bills into laws? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who gives advice to the President about important matters? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# TRUE or FALSE?

## 3 Branches of U.S. Government

Directions: Read the statement. Answer true or false. If false, write the correct answer underneath.



Our country's Founding Fathers, the writers of the U.S. Constitution, wanted to create a strong national government. They also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have too much power. That's why they separated the government's powers into three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

Statement		Answer
1.	Congress is made up of 100 judges and 435 representatives.	True / False
2.	The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws.	True / False
3.	It is the responsibility of the judicial branch to Collect and spend money from taxes.	True / False
4.	The U.S. Government is split into 3 branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.	True / False
5.	The President signs bills into laws.	True / False
6.	The Supreme Court gives advice to the President about important matters.	True / False
7.	Decisions made by the Supreme Court are final, and cannot be overruled.	True / False
8.	The Executive branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution.	True / False
9.	The Vice-President is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.	True / False
10.	The President appoints Supreme Court justices.	True / False