



THREE BRANCHES: Separate But Equal

The nation's Founders wanted to ensure that no one government official or group had too much power. They created three branches of federal government that share power equally. Read the chart, and then answer the questions below.

 Capitol	LEGISLATIVE BRANCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONGRESS House of Representatives (435 members) Senate (100 members) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes the laws • Declares war • Senate approves or rejects the President's nominations of Justices (judges) to the U.S. Supreme Court
 White House	EXECUTIVE BRANCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRESIDENT • VICE PRESIDENT • CABINET MEMBERS 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has authority to approve or veto congressional bills (proposed laws), plans, and programs • Shapes and carries out foreign policy • Plans federal budget, collects taxes
 Supreme Court Building	JUDICIAL BRANCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUPREME COURT (9 Justices) • LOWER FEDERAL COURTS 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can declare laws unconstitutional to protect the rights of citizens • Resolves conflicts and questions about certain laws

1. How many branches of government get involved with laws? _____

2. Which branch declares war? Why do you think that branch holds that power?

3. Who nominates Supreme Court Justices? Who approves the nominations?

