

CHECKS AND BALANCES: **The Separation of Powers**

Use the information on page 1 to answer the questions. **Sample answers**

1. How does the legislative branch check the powers of the executive branch?
When the president nominates judges or other top officials, the Senate must approve those nominations. The Senate can also impeach, or remove, the president from office when impeachable offenses are committed.
2. How does the legislative branch check the powers of the judicial branch?
The Senate must confirm, or approve, all judges nominated by the president. The Senate can also impeach, or remove, federal judges from their positions when impeachable offenses are committed.
3. How does the executive branch check the powers of the legislative branch?
The president has the power to veto, or cancel, legislation passed by Congress.
4. How does the executive branch check the powers of the judicial branch?
The president influences federal courts by nominating judges. The president can also pardon people convicted of federal crimes.
5. How does the judicial branch check the powers of the legislative branch?
The Supreme Court can reverse legislation passed by Congress by ruling that those laws are unconstitutional.
6. How does the judicial branch check the powers of the executive branch?
The Supreme Court can declare presidential actions unconstitutional.

Bonus Question:
Do a little more digging!

There are many other ways that the branches of government limit each other's power! Research some examples of checks and balances that aren't included on page 1. How many can you find?