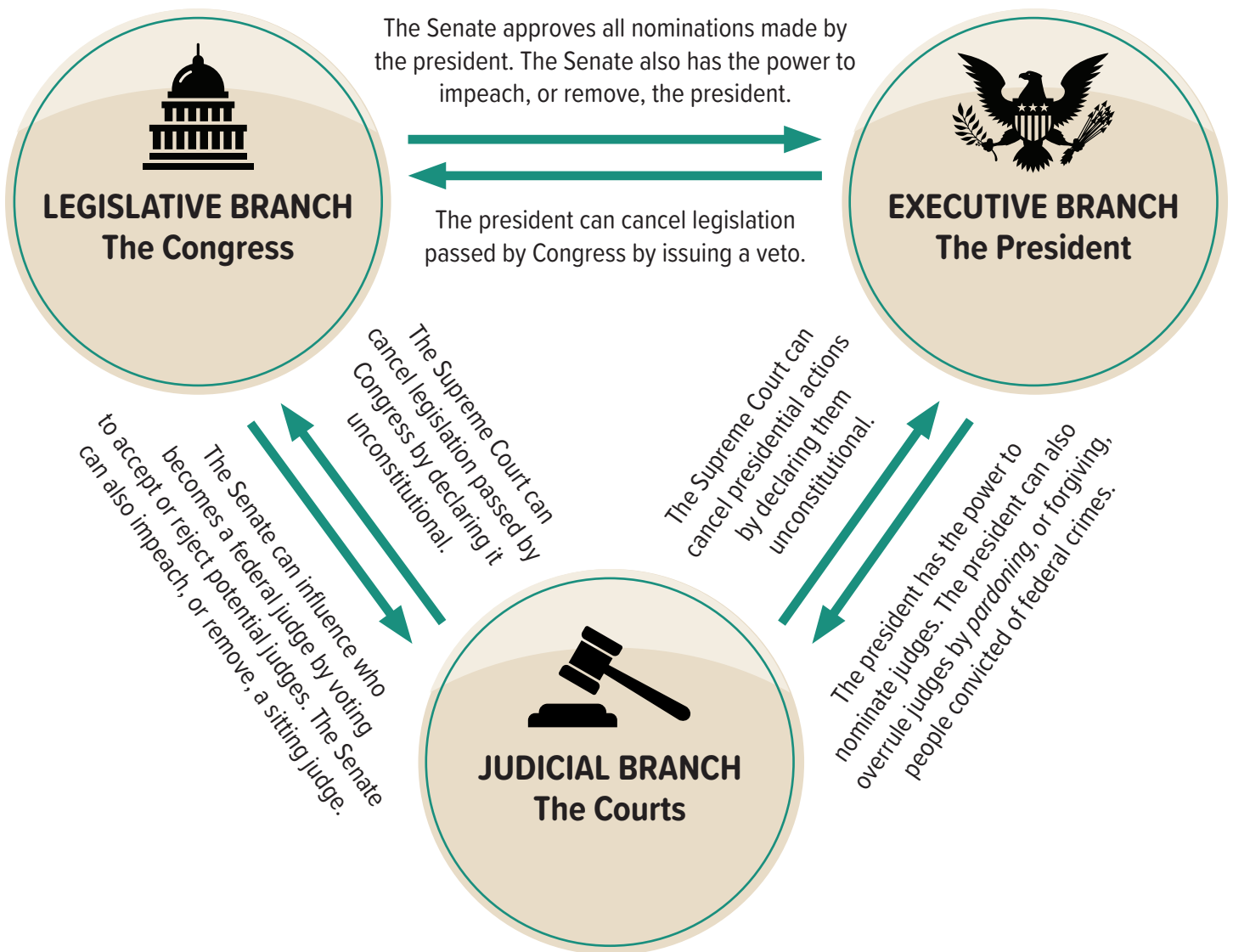


CHECKS AND BALANCES: The Separation of Powers

The United States Constitution divides the federal government into three branches. The legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch carries out laws, and the judicial branch evaluates laws. This organization is referred to as the **separation of powers**. Each branch of government has its own unique powers. Each branch also has specific powers that act to “check,” or limit, the other branches so no one branch gets too powerful. Read the chart for examples of how these **checks and balances** work! Then answer the questions on page 2.



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

Use the information on page 1 to answer the questions.

1. How does the legislative branch check the powers of the executive branch?

2. How does the legislative branch check the powers of the judicial branch?

3. How does the executive branch check the powers of the legislative branch?

4. How does the executive branch check the powers of the judicial branch?

5. How does the judicial branch check the powers of the legislative branch?

6. How does the judicial branch check the powers of the executive branch?

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?