



# CHECKS AND BALANCES WORKSHEET

Checks and balances is a political principle which describes how the branches of government work with each other. The Constitution of the United States established the three branches of the United States government. These branches are the executive, legislative and judicial. The President is the head of the executive branch, which enforces the laws. Congress, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives, is the head of the legislative branch which makes the laws. The judicial branch, which interprets the laws, is made up of the Supreme Court and the federal courts.

**Executive Branch**

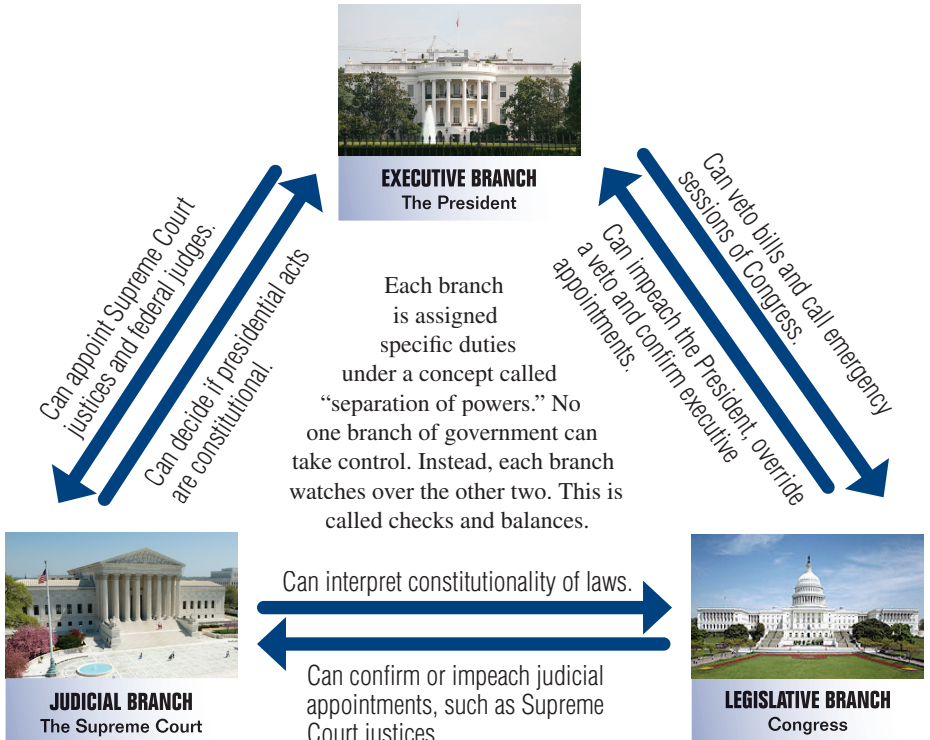
- President
- Vice President
- The Cabinet
- Departments, such as Department of Defense and Department of Education
- Boards and Commissions, such as the National Park Foundation

**Legislative Branch**

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Congressional support organizations, such as the Library of Congress

**Judicial Branch**

- Supreme Court
- Lower courts, such as U.S. District Courts
- Special Courts, such as the U.S. Tax Court
- Court Support organizations, such as U.S. Sentencing Commission



## Word Search

Find the hidden words from the list at the right.

N P R E S I D E N T K E S S C	<b>WORD LIST</b>
Q O J E V E Z C B H V L T K O	APPOINTMENTS
H P I E X H M A O I H Y N C N	BALANCES
O A T T V E L E T U U L E E G	BRANCH
U O V U U A C A R E R X M H R	CHECKS
S D T D N T L U T P T T T C E	CONGRESS
E H J C F S I A T Y U R N R S	CONSTITUTION
B H E H I C N T N I A S I E S	COURT
N S Z G S E Y T S D V F O X B	EXECUTIVE
B A E W S F P O E N P E P T J	HOUSE
W L L A I C I D U J O L P W P	JUDICIAL
B R A N C H S W A L B C A P H	LAWS
S T N Z S R C B E R L M W X E	LEGISLATIVE
H N S N X V P M O U I Y I Z L	PRESIDENT
T B R W E V O B I I D A M Z G	SENATE
	SUPREME
	VETO

## QUIZ

1. Which branch of the government makes laws? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who can veto a bill which Congress passes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which branch of the government appoints justices to the U.S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which branch of the government interprets the laws? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which branch of the government decides if laws are constitutional?  
\_\_\_\_\_