

The Three Branches of Government Card Sort



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The purpose of this game is to help students review the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government. Make one set and conduct the activity as a whole group or to make an interactive anchor chart. Make several sets and allow students to work with a partner to complete the set.

Directions: Prepare the game by printing out the plan title cards and the cards for the card sort. I would make enough sets for students to work with a partner. You can copy them on different colored cardstock, so the sets don't get mixed up. If you are limited on time, you can print one set, post the title cards on your board, and then give each student one card to place.

In Round One, challenge the students to place the correct descriptions in the correct category. If you look closely, you will notice all of the executive branch cards have the same frame, the legislative branch the same frame, etc. This is to allow you to do a quick check while you are walking around checking students work.

In Round Two, ask the students to hold up two cards that show a check and a balance. For example, they could hold up the card "President", and the card "Can impeach the president".

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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President

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Vice - President

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Cabinet

Social Studies Success®

**President is
elected every
4 years**

**Has a group
of advisors to
help lead**

**Signs bills
into law**

**Enforces the
laws of the
Constitution**

**Commander
-in-
Chief**

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Can veto bills

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**Make treaties
with foreign
countries**

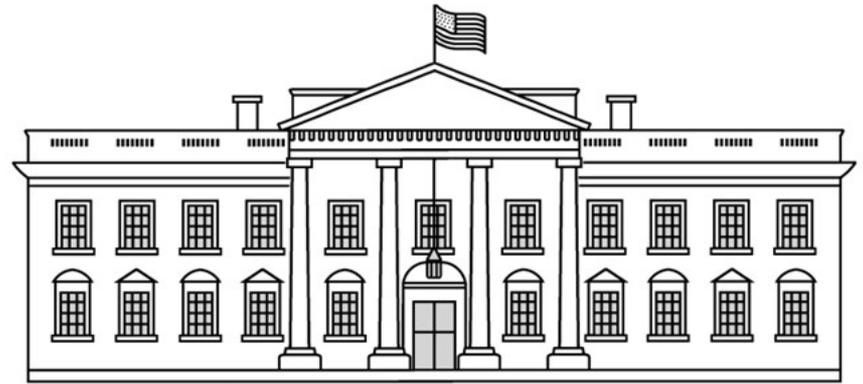
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**Appoints
judges to the
Supreme
Court**

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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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Congress

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Senate

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House of Representatives

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**Writes bills
and proposes
laws**

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**Approves
Supreme
Court Justices**

Social Studies Success®

**Approves
government
spending**

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**Can impeach
the president**

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**Can declare
war**

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**Funds
government
services**

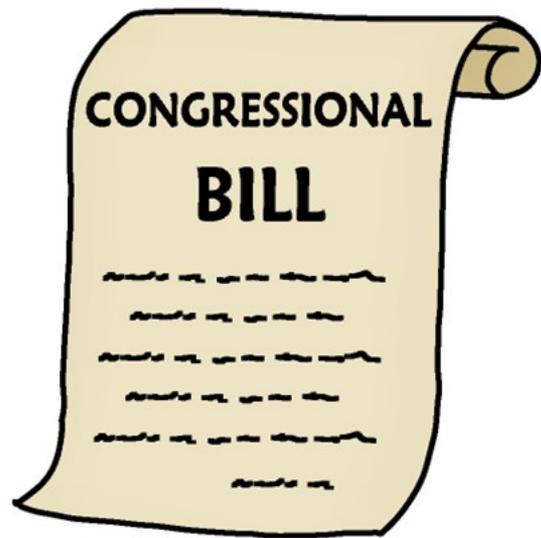
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**Approves the
president's
cabinet
members.**

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**Larger states
have more
representation.**

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JUDICIAL BRANCH

**Supreme
Court**

**Judges and
Justices**

**Jury of your
peers**

**Interprets the
Constitution**

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**State
Court**

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**Federal
Court**

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**Nine Justices on
the Supreme
Court**

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**Supreme Court
Justices are
appointed by
the president**

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**Supreme Court
Justices are
approved by
the Senate**

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**Provides fair
and speedy
trials**

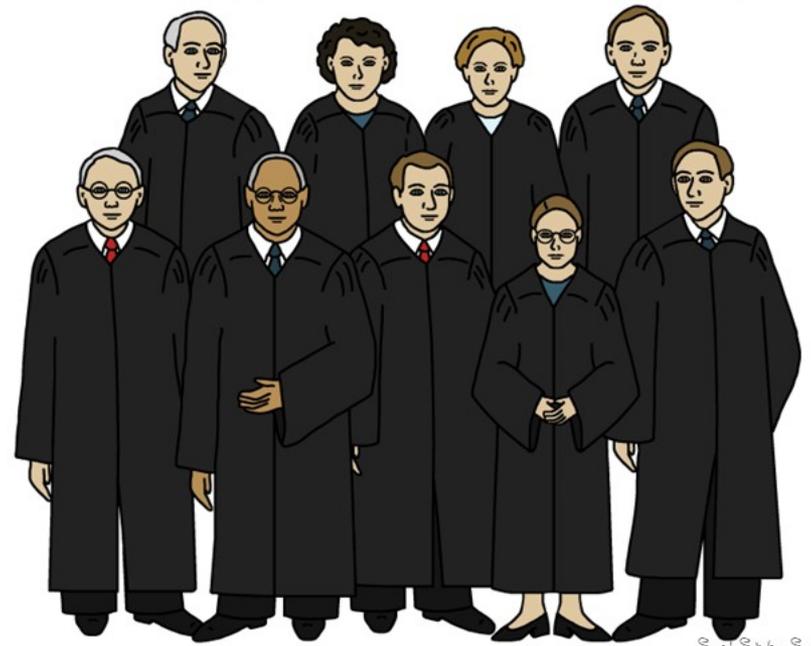
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**Supreme Court
reviews cases
of national
importance**

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