

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT DO THEY DO?

## 3 Branches of U.S. Government

Read the Information and answer the questions.

Our country's Founding Fathers, the writers of the U.S. Constitution, wanted to create a strong national government. They also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have too much power. That's why they separated the government's powers into three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

### Legislative

Members: **Congress and House of Representatives**

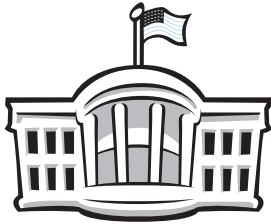


U.S Capitol

- The members of Congress —100 senators and 435 representatives.
- The Vice President of the U.S. is considered the head of the Senate
- The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws, write bills, then vote on whether or not the bills should become laws.
- Collecting and spending money from taxes.
- Declare war.

### Executive

Members: **The President, Vice President and Cabinet members**



White House

The President:

- Signs bills into laws.
- Vetoes or rejects bills.
- Appoint Supreme Court justices.
- Meets with foreign leaders and negotiates treaties.
- Is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.
- The cabinet gives advice to the President about important matters.

### Judicial

Members: **9 Supreme Court Justices**



Supreme Court

- Members are appointed by the President and serve life-long terms.
- The Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch and is the highest court in the country.
- Its decisions are final, and no other court can overrule those decisions.
- Decides if laws agree with the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

1. Why were the 3 branches of Government established? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the most important duty of the legislative branch? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who signs bills into laws? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who gives advice to the President about important matters? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Why were the 3 branches of Government established?

**So no one person or group had too much power**

2. What is the most important duty of the legislative branch?

**To make laws**

3. Who signs bills into laws?

**The President**

4. Who gives advice to the President about important matters?

**The Cabinet**

5. Which branch decides if laws agree with the Constitution?

**Judicial**