

## U1-S3 Three Branches of Government

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Civics

### 3 Branches of Government

Our federal government has three parts. They are the Executive, (President and about 5,000,000 workers) Legislative (Congress: Senate and House of Representatives) and Judicial (Supreme Court and lower Courts).

The President of the United States administers the Executive Branch of our government. He enforces the laws that the Legislative Branch (Congress) makes. The President is elected by United States citizens, 18 years of age and older, who vote in the presidential elections in their states. These votes are tallied by states and form the Electoral College system. States have the number of electoral votes which equal the number of senators and representatives they have. It is possible to have the most popular votes throughout the nation and NOT win the electoral vote of the Electoral College.

The Legislative part of our government is called Congress. Congress makes our laws. Congress is divided into 2 parts. One part is called the Senate. There are 100 Senators--2 from each of our states. Another part is called the House of Representatives. Representatives meet together to discuss ideas and decide if these ideas (bills) should become laws. There are 435 Representatives. The number of representatives each state gets is determined by its population. Some states have just 2 representatives. Others have as many as 40. Both senators and representatives are elected by the eligible voters in their states.

The Judicial part of our federal government includes the Supreme Court and 9 Justices. They are special judges who interpret laws according to the Constitution. These justices only hear cases that pertain to issues related to the Constitution. They are the highest court in our country. The federal judicial system also has lower courts located in each state to hear cases involving federal issues.

All three parts of our federal government have their main headquarters in the city of Washington D.C.

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## Civics

Name:

**FILL IN THE BLANKS IN THE SENTENCES BELOW USING YOUR NOTES PROVIDED.**

1. What are the three branches of our government? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of our government makes the laws.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of our government enforces our laws.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of our government interprets our laws.
5. What are the two parts of our Congress? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. There are \_\_\_\_\_ representatives in Congress.
7. There are a total of \_\_\_\_\_ senators in Congress.
8. There are \_\_\_\_\_ senators appointed to each state.
9. There are a total of \_\_\_\_\_ judges on the Supreme Court.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is elected by eligible United States citizens who vote and by the Electoral College system.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are elected by voters in their states.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ study laws to see if they are correct according to the Constitution.
13. Where do the major branches of our federal government meet and work?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the leader of the Executive Branch of our government.  
\_\_\_\_\_