**THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

**Part A: Chart.** Read the “Anatomy of the Constitution” PDF. Then use the reading to help you fill out the blanks in the chart below that cover the three branches of government.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **LEGISLATIVE** | **EXECUTIVE** | **JUDICIAL** |
| What Article of the Constitution sets up the branch? | Article I | Article II | Article III |
| What is the main job or purpose of this branch? | Makes the laws | Carry out or enforce the laws | Interpret the laws |
| What people make up this branch? | Senate and the House of Representatives | President, Vice President, and the Cabinet | Supreme Court |
| How do these people get their jobs? | Elected by the people | Elected by Electoral College | Appointed by President |
| What qualifications do they need? | Senate:  30 years old, a citizen for 9 years, live in the state they represent  House of Representatives:  25 years old, a citizen for 7 years, live in the state they represent | 35 years old  Natural-born citizen  Lived in the USA for 14 years | None! |

**Part B: Matching.** Match the jobs of government to which branch will carry out that job. Write “L” for legislative, “E” for executive, and “J” for judicial in the empty boxes. Use the “Anatomy of the Constitution” reading to help you. There will be 7 Ls, 6 Es, and 2 Js.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BRANCH** | **JOB** |
| Legislative | 1) Prints money |
| E | 2) Enforces the law |
| J | 3) Decides what a law means |
| L | 4) Declares war |
| E | 5) Includes the president, vice president, and the cabinet |
| L | 6) Divided into the House and Senate |
| L | 7) Punishes pirates! (“Yarrr!”) |
| E | 8) Makes treaties with other countries |
| J | 9) Can declare laws unconstitutional |
| E | 10) Selected by the Electoral College |
| L | 11) Selected by popular vote (the people!) |
| E | 12) Appoints Supreme Court justices, federal judges, ambassadors, and cabinet members |
| L | 13) Approves presidential appointments |
| E | 14) Makes a State of the Union address each year |
| L | 15) Collects taxes |

**Part C: Analysis.** Read through each scenario and think about which branch of government has the power or ability to act. Write either LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, or JUDICIAL, and briefly explain the power of that branch that allows them to act in this situation.

1) The United States decides to raise taxes on Americans in order to reduce the national debt and to pay for building new schools and roads. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: LEGISLATIVE

2) The United States wishes to conduct an agreement, or treaty, with European countries to manage greenhouse gases and to reduce them in half by 2035. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: EXECUTIVE

3) The United States decides to redesign the dollar bill and to print new cash to reflect this change, adding new security features along the way to reduce counterfeiting. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: LEGISLATIVE

4) Jacob is arrested for stealing potatoes from a local Wal-Mart. He goes on trial for this crime, a jury of his peers finds him guilty, and a judge interprets the law to determine that Jacob must serve 30 days in prison as punishment. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: JUDICIAL

5) The President decides that he wants to replace one of his chief advisors, the Secretary of State, who acts as the nation’s main diplomat. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: EXECUTIVE

6) North Korea threatens the United States, and the United States declares war on them, raising a large navy and army and supplying it with the latest in combat technology. Which branch of government has acted here? How do you know?

ANSWER: LEGISLATIVE