

Guided Reading 3.2: The Three Branches of Government

Name: _____ Period: _____

| The Three Branches of Government | | |
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| <u>Legislative</u> Create Laws <u>Main parts</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- U.S. Senate & House of Representatives (together called Congress) <u>Powers & Responsibilities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Writes and passes laws- Approves the federal budget- Can declare war- Confirms Presidential appointments (Senate)- Can override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds vote- Can impeach and remove the President or judges | <u>Executive</u> Enforce Laws <u>Main part</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The President (along with the Vice President & Cabinet) <u>Powers & Responsibilities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Signs or vetoes laws passed by Congress- Commands the military (Commander-in-Chief)- Conducts foreign policy (negotiates treaties, appoints ambassadors)- Appoints federal judges, including Supreme Court Justices- Issues executive orders to direct government agencies- Can pardon individuals for federal crimes | <u>Judicial</u> Interpret Laws <u>Main part</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The U.S. Supreme Court (9 Justices) & lower federal courts <u>Powers & Responsibilities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Interprets the Constitution and decides if laws are constitutional (Judicial Review)- Hears cases involving federal laws, treaties, and disputes between states- Can strike down laws or executive actions if they violate the Constitution- Justices serve for life (unless they retire or are impeached) |

Use the table above to answer the questions found below

Questions:

1) In your own words, What does each branch of government do?

2) What is Checks and Balances & why is it important that no one branch has total control over the government?

3) How long do Supreme Court justices serve, and why do you think this is important?

4) What would happen if the U.S. government did not have a system of Checks & Balances?

After watching the Marbury vs. Madison video in class, answer the questions below. You can rewatch the video again here if needed → [Marbury vs. Madison: What Was the Case About? | History](#)

Questions:

1) Who was William Marbury, and what position was he appointed to?

2) How did the Court interpret the Judiciary Act of 1789 in this case?

3) How did the decision in Marbury vs. Madison affect the balance of power among the three branches of government?
