

Watch the Video, then read the passage and answer the questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Checks and Balances

By creating a government with three branches, the delegates built a system of checks and balances into the Constitution. This system was established so that no one branch of government could become too powerful. Each branch of government has the power to check the other branches. The legislative branch can check on the executive branch by overriding a president's veto, ratifying treaties, declaring war, **appropriating** money, or impeaching and removing the president. The legislative branch checks on the judicial branch by creating lower federal courts, impeaching and removing judges, proposing amendments, and approving appointments of federal judges. The executive branch checks on the legislative branch by vetoing laws, calling special sessions of Congress, and negotiating **foreign** treaties. The executive branch checks on the judicial branch by appointing federal judges and granting pardons to federal offenders. Finally, the judicial branch has the power to declare executive actions (actions by the president) and acts of Congress unconstitutional.

How does each branch check on the other? Fill in the information from the packet, or answer on paper.

Legislative Branch	Checks on Executive Branch 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Executive Branch	Checks on Legislative Branch 1. 2. 3.
Judicial Branch	Checks on Executive Branch 1.

Legislative Branch	Checks on Judicial Branch 1. 2. 3. 4.
Executive Branch	Checks on Judicial Branch 1. 2.
Judicial Branch	Checks on Legislative Branch 1.