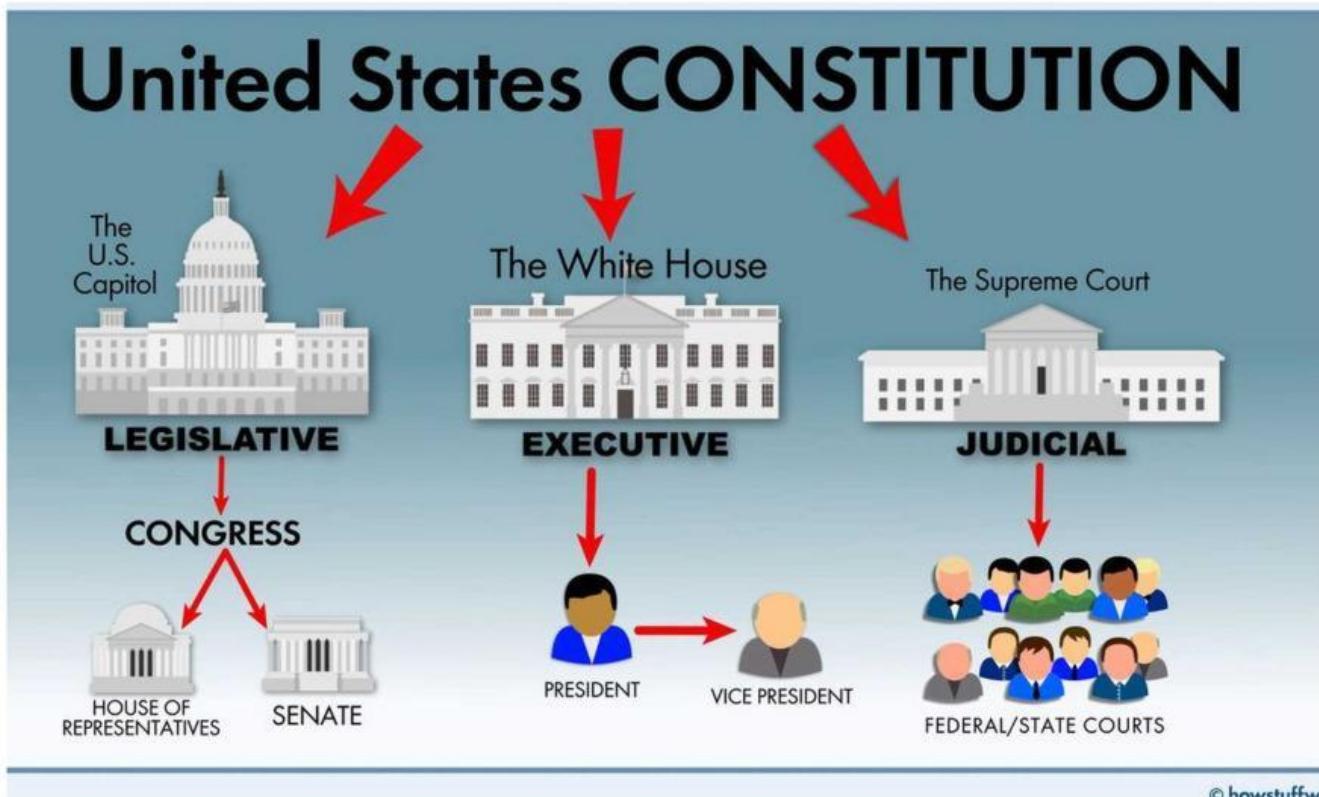


## Part 1—Preview

Look at the picture. Write 3 details that you notice. Write sentences.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



Now write 2 questions you have about the picture.

- 1)
- 2)

## Part 2—Vocabulary

Read the article. Infer the meaning of each key (important) word.

Do **NOT** copy a dictionary definition!

*Infer = use context clues to guess the meaning*

impeach

legislative

judicial

veto

Congress

### Part 3—Read and identify main ideas.

The United States government is made up of three branches: the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. Each branch has its own special job. The Legislative Branch (Congress) makes the laws. The Executive Branch (President) carries out the laws. The Judicial Branch (judges, courts) makes sure the laws are fair.

The three branches of government are designed to keep each other in check. This is called "checks and balances." Checks and balances **make sure no one branch gets too powerful**. It's like a game where everyone has a different role and they all need to work together to win.

For example, the Legislative Branch can make new laws. But the President in the Executive Branch can decide if the law is a good idea and sign it into law or say no. This is called the power of the veto. The Judicial Branch can also look at the new law and decide if it is unconstitutional. This means the law does not follow the rules of the Constitution.

The President can pick judges. But the Legislative Branch gets to approve those picks. The President can also issue orders, but the Judicial Branch can decide if those orders are fair. The Legislative Branch can also decide to impeach the President or a judge. This means they can charge them for bad behavior.

The people of the United States also have a say in how the government works. They can vote for their Representatives every two years and their Senators every six years.

**NOTE: Congress = Senators + Representatives.** They can also stop the government from changing the Constitution if they don't agree.

**Underline** the topic sentence of the paragraph.

In a few words, tell the **main idea**.

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#### Part 4— Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions. Tell in which paragraph you found the answers.

Question	Answer	Where?
Why do we have “checks and balances”?		
What each branch of government’s job?		
What does “unconstitutional” mean?		
Tell 2 things citizens can do to check power.		
What is the President’s branch and job?		

#### Part 5—Reflection

Write a topic sentence and at least 5 detail sentences about the questions.

Imagine! What do you think would happen if our government did not have checks and balances?