




Name: _____

Balance of Power

The federal government has three branches—executive, legislative, and judicial. Each branch can check, or limit, the power of the other two. Read the chart to learn about the three branches. Then answer the questions that follow.

Three Branches of the U.S. Government

BRANCH	WHO/WHAT IS INCLUDED	MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES
Legislative 	U.S. Congress, which is made up of two chambers—the Senate and the House of Representatives	Writes and passes bills that may become laws; approves the nation's budget and the people the President wants to hire for certain jobs; declares war
Executive 	U.S. President, Vice President, and the Cabinet. The Cabinet is a group of advisers from important government departments, such as defense and education.	Signs or vetoes (rejects) bills that may become laws; meets with leaders from other countries; commands the military; proposes a budget for the country; makes agreements with other countries
Judicial 	U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts	Decides whether laws meet the standards of the Constitution; can overturn laws that don't

- Which branch includes the President? _____
- What two chambers make up the legislative branch? _____

- Which branch is responsible for declaring war? _____
- Describe two duties of the executive branch when it comes to dealing with other countries.

- Explain how the judicial branch might “check” the power of the legislative and executive branches.

