



Three Branches of Government

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It's a Rap!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOS7RGpvNVs>

What are the three branches?

1. Executive Branch
2. Judicial Branch
3. Legislative Branch

Executive Branch

President of the United States is the leader

President's duties are to:

- Enforce federal laws and recommend new ones
- Serve as commander and chief of the armed forces
- Meet with leaders of other countries

The President's Cabinet

- President has a Vice President and department heads who advise the President on issues and help carry out policies
- Vice President = President of the Senate, becomes President
- Leaders in each department are called Secretaries
- Secretaries make up the President's Cabinet

Cabinet Departments

- Department of Defense- provides the military forces to protect
- Department of Health and Human Services- provides services that include conducting medical research, preventing diseases, assuring the safety of food and drugs
- Department of Energy- researches and develops energy systems that are friendly to the environment

Judicial Branch

Made up of the court system. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. It was established by the Constitution. Other federal courts were established by congress.

Courts decide arguments about:

- The meaning of laws
- How laws are applied
- Whether laws break the rules of the constitution

The Supreme Court

- Hears cases that have made their way through the lower court systems
- More than 7,500 cases per year
- 80-100 cases actually accepted
- 9 Supreme Court Justices
- Justices are appointed by the President, approved by the Senate, and can serve for life

The Legislative Branch

- The U.S. Congress is made up of two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Congress meets at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.
- Primary duty is to write, debate, and pass bills
- Bills are passed onto the President for approval

The House of Representatives

- Representation is based on the number of people living in each state
- Larger populations have more representatives
- Each state has at least one representative in the House
- Delaware has 1

House of Representatives.....

- Serves a term of 2 years
- Representatives must be 25 years or older
- Be a U.S. citizen for the past 7 years
- Live in the state you represent

The Senate

- Each state sends 2 representatives
- 100 senators
- Serves a term of 6 years
- Must be 30 years old or older
- Be a U.S. citizen for the past 9 years
- Live in the state you represent

Special Duties of the Legislature

Senate can:

- Vote on any treaties the President makes
- Hold a trial for a government official who does something wrong

House of Representatives can

- Recommend tax bills to become laws
- Decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate if he/she commits a crime against the country

Lets Check our understanding

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/usa_game/government/branches_of_government_2.18_1.swf