

# The Branches of Our Government

Our government has three parts, or branches. Write down the names of the three branches of our government under each diagram that it goes with. Then write down the terms from the list below that go under each branch. There will be three under each branch.

President  
Carry out the laws

Congress  
Senators

Supreme Court  
Cabinet

Make laws  
Judges

Make decisions about laws



The White House



Capitol Building



The Supreme Court

Branch

Branch

Branch

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

When the founders of our country wrote the Constitution, they divided the federal, or national, government into three branches: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. Each branch has a different purpose. To keep the United States a democracy, each branch can check and balance the power of the other two branches. The President leads the executive branch, which carries out laws. He or she can veto, or stop from becoming law, bills made by the legislative branch. The judicial branch is made up of the United States Supreme Court and federal courts. It decides whether laws passed by the legislative branch are constitutional. If the President or a member of the Supreme Court does something wrong, the legislative branch, made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate, can impeach him or her. The branches work together in this way to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.