

THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



- * LEGISLATIVE
- * EXECUTIVE
- * JUDICIAL

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND
SENATE

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



- Also called Congress.
- Meet in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



- Bicameral - 2 Houses
- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Responsibility is to make (create) laws.
- Dual Role - constituents needs & wants and considering what is good for nation as a whole.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



- 435 Seats
- Number of seats determined by state population.
- 19 Committees - 84 sub-committees
- Referred to as the “lower” house.
- Leader is called Speaker of the House.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



- Has sole power to Impeach President.
- All bills to raise money must come from the House of Representatives.
- All bills (laws) must pass in the House before going to the President.

SENATE



- 100 seats -2 seats per state - separate vote
- 16 Committees and 69 sub- committees
- Referred to as the “upper” house
- Vice President is President of Senate but NO vote unless a tie.
- Leader = President pro tempore
- Nicknamed “Millionaires Club”

SENATE



- Power to try impeachment - 2/3rd vote
- Senate approval needed on bills to raise money.
- All laws must pass in the Senate before going to the President.

LEGISLATIVE BRACH



- **Powers of Congress**
 - Oversee elections
 - Set rules within the legislative branch
 - To tax, to borrow money, to coin money
 - Set rules of naturalization
 - Regulate commerce
 - Establish Post Offices

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



- Powers continued....
 - To declare war
 - To raise and support armies
 - To make all laws that are necessary and proper

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



- **Powers that Congress DOES NOT have..**
 - Can not suspend Habeas Corpus
 - Can not tax inter-state commerce
 - Can not take money from treasury unless a law is passed to do so
 - Can not give a title of nobility

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- Responsible for enforcing the laws.
- President is the head of the Executive Branch.
- President provides leadership by setting goals and developing policy.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- Must be a natural born citizen
- Must be at least 35 years old
- Must be 14 years a resident within the United States
- Term is for 4 years - only 2 in a row
- Must give state of the union to Congress

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- Must take an oath as follows, “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States”

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- Powers of the President....
 - Commander and Chief of the Army and Navy
 - Can grant pardons and Can veto laws.
 - Can call Congress into session.
 - Make treaties, appoint Supreme Court Justices and Ambassadors - Senate approval

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- Can be impeached for the following reasons:
 - Treason
 - Bribery
 - Other high Crimes and Misdemeanors

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- President creates cabinet - advisors
- Department of State, Treasury, Interior, Agriculture, Justice, Labor, Commerce, Veterans' Affairs, Defense, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Education and NOW Homeland Security

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Responsible for interpreting the law in regards to the Constitution
- Final court of appeals for state and federal cases.
- Supreme Court justices are appointed by the President, approved by the Senate, and they hold their office for life or retirement.

JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Currently - 9 Justices - only can be changed by Constitutional Amendment
- Justices hear 150 cases per year - over 5000 requests
- 4 Justices need to agree to hear a case
- Session is October through June
- Removed by impeachment or conviction

JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Qualifications - nothing listed in the Constitution
- Unofficial qualifications are:
 - Politically active
 - Lawyer or Lower Court Judge
 - Same political party as the President

JUDICIAL BRANCH



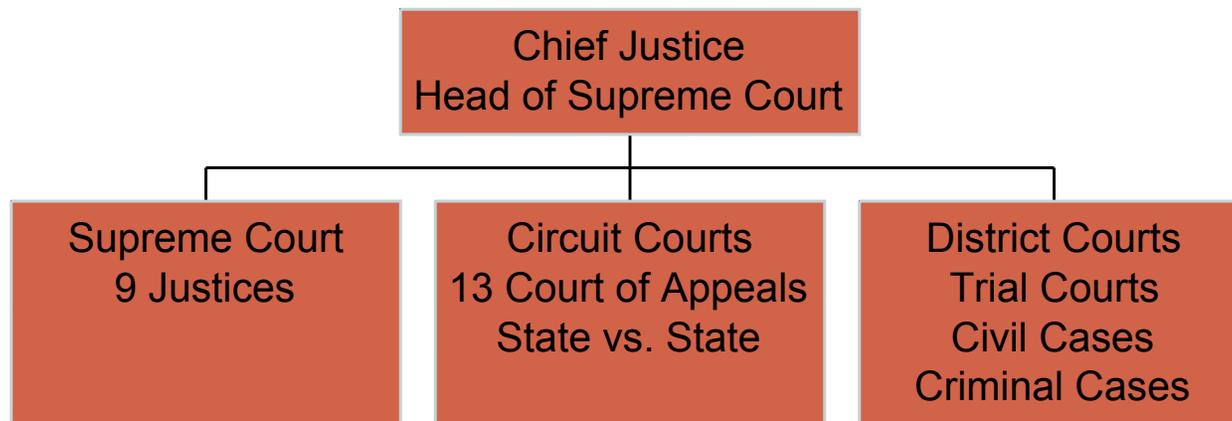
- Article III is where we define treason.
- Treason = committing an overt action - it must be seen
- Talking about treason is not a crime
- Can not punish family

JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Judicial Act of 1789
- Created three part court system
- Established the Office of Attorney General
- Job of Attorney General is to represent the USA in the Supreme Court and to be a legal advisor to the Executive Branch

JUDICIAL BRANCH



JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Civil Cases - sue, divorce, contracts, any case that does not involve a crime
- Criminal Cases - commit a crime
- Defendant - the person on trial
- Plaintiff - person who brought case to court
- Prosecutor - represents city, state, people in a criminal case

JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Influences on the Court
- Precedents - past decisions
- Personal legal views - strict interpretation means to look at intent of founding fathers - broad interpretation means you need to take into account changes in society
- Justices interaction

JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Influences continued.....
- Public Opinion, Congress, and the President