

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

The Three Branches of Government

Practice Worksheet

Instructions: Answer the following questions about the three branches of the United States government. Write your answers in the space provided. For multiple-choice questions, circle the correct letter. For essay questions, write a complete response on a separate sheet of paper if needed.

1. **Short Answer:** What are the three branches of the U.S. federal government? List them in order as established by the Constitution.

2. **Multiple Choice:** Which branch of government has the power to declare war?

- a) Executive Branch
- b) Legislative Branch
- c) Judicial Branch
- d) All three branches equally

3. **Short Answer:** Name the two houses that make up the U.S. Congress. Which branch do they belong to?

4. **Multiple Choice:** The President serves as the head of which branch?

- a) Legislative Branch
- b) Judicial Branch
- c) Executive Branch
- d) Federal Branch

5. **Short Answer:** What is the main function of the Judicial Branch? Name the highest court in this branch.

6. **Essay / Long Response:** Explain the system of checks and balances. Give one specific example of how one branch can limit the power of another branch. Your answer should be at least three complete sentences.

7. **Multiple Choice:** Who has the power to veto a bill passed by Congress?

- a) The Chief Justice
- b) The Vice President
- c) The President
- d) The Speaker of the House

8. **Short Answer:** What is the primary role of the Legislative Branch? List two specific powers granted to Congress by the Constitution.

9. **Multiple Choice:** The Supreme Court's power to declare a law unconstitutional is known as:

- a) Judicial review
- b) Executive order
- c) Legislative oversight
- d) Federalism

10. **Essay / Long Response:** Describe the process by which a bill becomes a law. Include the roles of both the Legislative and Executive branches in your explanation. Write at least four complete sentences.

Answer Key

1. **Answer:** The three branches are the Legislative Branch (Congress), the Executive Branch (President), and the Judicial Branch (courts). They are established in Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution, respectively.
2. **Answer:** b) Legislative Branch. The Constitution grants Congress the sole power to declare war (Article I, Section 8).
3. **Answer:** The two houses are the Senate and the House of Representatives. They belong to the Legislative Branch.
4. **Answer:** c) Executive Branch. The President is the head of the Executive Branch.
5. **Answer:** The main function of the Judicial Branch is to interpret laws and ensure they are constitutional. The highest court is the Supreme Court of the United States.
6. **Answer:** Checks and balances is a system that prevents any one branch from becoming too powerful. For example, the President can veto legislation passed by Congress, but Congress can override that veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses. This ensures cooperation and limits power.
7. **Answer:** c) The President. The President has the power to veto bills passed by Congress.
8. **Answer:** The primary role of the Legislative Branch is to make laws. Two specific powers include the power to tax and the power to declare war.
9. **Answer:** a) Judicial review. This power was established in the landmark case Marbury v. Madison (1803).
10. **Answer:** A bill is introduced in either the House or Senate, where it is debated and voted on. If passed by both chambers, it goes to the President. The President can sign it into law or veto it. If vetoed, Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each house. This process involves both the Legislative Branch (making the law) and the Executive Branch (approving or rejecting it).