**Name:**

**Date:**

**School:**

**Facilitator:**

2.02 Powers of Government

In this lesson, you will learn about the different responsibilities of the three branches of the U.S. government. As you preview the presentation, complete the notes and activities below.

1. List two to three reasons why you think it's important to divide responsibilities among different branches of government.

## John Adams video quiz:

2. John Adams divided the power of the Massachusetts government so it would not be controlled by:

a. An aristocracy.

b. Congress.

c. Britain.

3. The video says that Adams wanted an "independent judiciary." This means he wanted:

a. The president to be part of the Supreme Court.

b. The courts to decide their cases without worrying about what politicians or the other branches of government wanted.

c. People to support the Independent Party.

4. Which of these ideas was NOT part of Adams' plan?

a. The legislative branch is made up of two groups.

b. The judicial branch is independent of the other two branches.

c. Once the legislative branch passes a bill, the executive branch can't stop it from becoming law.

5. In two to three sentences, write down what you think the phrase "checks and balances" means.

6. Write down one job of each branch of the federal government and describe how this work is checked by another branch.

Legislative Branch:

Executive Branch:

Judicial Branch:

7. Choose two words from the vocabulary list and write a new sentence for each word.

Vocabulary words: responsibilities, representatives, separation, and commerce

## Match It!

Commerce

Separation

Responsibilities

Representatives

8. After they freed themselves from Britain, Americans set up a government that called for the of power.

9. The three branches of the U.S. government share the of running the nation.

10. The legislative branch of the government, Congress, is made up of from each state.

11. One of the jobs that Congress performs is to oversee , which is the trading of goods and services.

## Arrange It!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **U.S. Government** | | |
| **Executive** | **Legislative** | **Judicial** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |

Copy and paste the following responsibilities into the appropriate branch’s column:

Suggests plan for federal budget

Can declare executive actions unconstitutional

Controls federal taxes and spending

Writes, debates, and passes bills into law

Decides arguments about the meaning of laws

Enforces laws

Makes the decision in disagreements among branches of the federal government

Can veto a bill

Approves budget

Is commander in chief of the armed forces

Can declare war on other countries

Decides if a law or government action violates the Constitution

Can impeach an official

Makes treaties with other nations

Oversees interstate and foreign commerce