Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

3.04 Powers of the Government

Total Points: 50

# Part 1: Powers and Responsibilities

1. What are the goals of the Constitution? Where are they laid out?

1. Complete the chart below to describe each of the three branches of U.S. Government, list their main role, and indicate where in the Constitution this branch is outlined.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Branch of Government** | **Describe the Branch**  **What positions or bodies make up this branch?** | **Main**  **Responsibilities** | **Article**  **Where are their powers outlined in the Constitution?** |
| **Legislative** |  |  |  |
| **Executive** |  |  |  |
| **Judicial** |  |  |  |

1. Copy the responsibilities from the answer bank below and paste them into the appropriate branch’s column in the U.S. Government chart.

| **The United States Government** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Executive** | **Legislative** | **Judicial** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |
|  |

**ANSWER BANK:**

* 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

1. In 2-3 complete sentences, write what you think the phrase "checks and balances" means.

1. List 2-3 reasons why you think it's important to divide responsibilities among different branches of government. Use complete sentences.

1. Write down one job of each branch of the federal government and describe how this work is checked by another branch.
   1. Legislative Branch:
      1. Job:
      2. How this work is checked by another branch:
   2. Executive Branch:
      1. Job:
      2. How this work is checked by another branch:
   3. Judicial Branch:
      1. Job:
      2. How this work is checked by another branch:

# Part 2: Elastic Clause

1. What are “enumerated powers”? Where are they listed in the Constitution?

1. What is the “elastic clause”? Where is it located in the U.S. Constitution?

1. Is the elastic clause important? Do you think it should be part of our constitution? Why or why not?