



# Three Branches of Government CARD SORT ACTIVITY

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

### Standard

SS.7.C.3.3: Illustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.

### Activity

Students will work independently or cooperative groups to match a vocabulary term or image to one of the three branches of government.

### Materials

- \* Individual branch posters, placed on desks around the room
  - o If you have a larger class size, consider printing two copies of the three branches posters and creating two different areas in the classroom for students to work.
- \* Three branches matching cards, one set per student group

### Instructions

1. Assign students to small groups of 2-3 students.
2. Place the individual branch posters around your classroom on a flat surface. Make sure that the posters are in an area where students have space to collaborate.
3. Copy and cut out the three branches matching cards. Each card contains an image or a definition that matches a branch of government. You will need enough copies for each student group.
4. Instruct students to take their cards, move to each poster and place them with the appropriate branch of government. Be sure to actively monitor and assess student progress while they are placing their cards.
5. Have students explain their reasoning for their sorting choices.

# Legislative Branch

# Executive Branch

# Judicial Branch

## Congress



## President



## Chief Justice



## Speaker of the House

The leader of the House of Representatives and is elected by their peers in the House of Representatives

## Cabinet

Advisors to the president, Head of Departments, Nominated by the President, Approved by the Senate

## Justices

Judges of the Supreme Court

## President Pro Tempore

the leader of the Senate when the Vice President is not present

## Vice President

a person who takes over the presidency on the resignation, removal, death, or disability of the president

## Supreme Court



## U.S. House of Representatives

the lower house of the U.S. Congress  
Based on the population of a state, there are 435 total members of the House of Representatives.

## Veto

constitutional power of the president to reject legislation passed by the legislative branch

## Judicial Review

the power of the judicial branch to review the actions of the executive and legislative branches and determine whether or not they are unconstitutional

## Senate

the upper house of the U.S. Congress  
Based on equal representation, each state has 2 senators no matter the size of the state. There are 100 senators total.

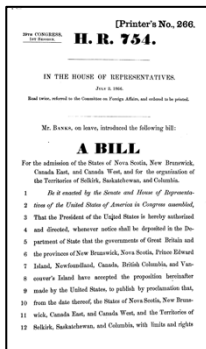
## Department

Large organizations of people that handle the day-to-day business of the executive branch of the federal government.

## Appellate Jurisdiction

authority of a court to review decisions made by lower courts

## Bill



## Electoral College

a group of people representing each state, these people formally cast votes for the election of the president and vice president

## Bicameral

a legislature consisting of two parts, or houses