

**POWERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
SCAVENGER HUNT  
SS.7.C.1.7**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For each government power listed in the chart, identify the branch of government that has the power and where in the Constitution the power is located. Use the excerpts from the U.S. Constitution to help you identify the branch that has each power and where it is located in the U.S. Constitution.

**POWERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SCAVENGER HUNT**

	<b>Government Power</b>	<b>Does this power belong to the Legislative, Executive or Judicial branch?</b>	<b>Where is the power located in the Constitution? List the Article and Section</b>
1	<b>Introduce &amp; pass bills</b>	Legislative Branch	Article I, Section 7
2	<b>Sign bills into law</b>		
3	<b>Nominate Supreme Court justices</b>		
4	<b>Declare war</b>		
5	<b>Veto bills</b>		
6	<b>Interpret laws</b>		
7	<b>Commander-in-Chief of the military</b>		
8	<b>Issue pardons</b>		
9	<b>Override presidential vetoes</b>		
10	<b>Make treaties</b>		
11	<b>Impeach the president</b>		
12	<b>Approve treaties for ratification</b>		

Activity adapted from: Separation of Powers Activity from the National Constitution Center: <https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/lesson-plans/separation-of-powers>



# EXCERPTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

## Excerpts from Article I – The Legislative Branch

**SECTION. 1.** All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

**SECTION. 2.** The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

**SECTION. 3.** The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments

**SECTION. 7.** All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives;... Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, ... If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

**SECTION. 8.** The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, ... to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;...

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;



To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards and other needful Buildings;-And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

### **Excerpts from Article II – The Executive Branch**

**SECTION. 1.** The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America...  
Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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."

**SECTION. 2.** The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, ... and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States,

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

### **Excerpts from Article III – The Judicial Branch**

**SECTION. 1.** The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

**SECTION. 2.** The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;--between a State and Citizens of another State;--between Citizens of different States;--between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

