



## BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

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### **Legislative:**

Congress

#### **Congress can:**

- Hold public hearings.
- Write and pass laws.
- Override presidential vetoes.
- Approve amendments to the Constitution.
- Regulate commerce.
- Control federal taxation and spending.
- Coin money.
- Declare war.
- Oversee the executive branch.
- Impeach the president.

### **Executive:**

President, Vice President, Cabinet

#### **The president can:**

- Negotiate treaties.
- Meet with foreign leaders.
- Recommend legislation to Congress.
- Sign into law bills passed by Congress.
- Veto bills passed by Congress.
- Grant pardons.
- Send troops overseas.

#### **Subject to Congressional Approval, the president also can:**

- Sign treaties.
- Appoint ambassadors to foreign countries.
- Appoint justices to the Supreme Court.
- Appoint cabinet heads.
- Declare war.

### **Judicial:**

Supreme Court

#### **The Supreme Court can:**

- Rule on court cases that question interpretation of the Constitution.
- Supervise the operations of all federal courts.
- Overrule all decisions made by lower federal courts.
- Overrule decisions about federal laws made by state courts.