

Three Branches of Government

Legislative Branch



- Led by the House of representatives (congress) and the senate
- Creates nation's laws
- Collects taxes
- Contains the power to declare war
- Established by Article I of the Constitution
- The House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members
- The House and the Senate must pass the same bill by majority vote
- In order for a bill to become a law, it goes through the legislative process, which means that both Congress and the Senate approve it.

Balance: Watches over President

Executive Branch



- Headed by the President and Cabinet members
- Carries out Nation's Laws
- Conducts relations with other countries
- Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate
- Power to sign legislation from Congress into law or to veto it
- Occupant is to enforce and apply the laws in place by Congress
- President assigns heads or leaders for federal agencies and departments to work for him
- The Cabinet is responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws

Balance: Checks on Courts

Judicial Branch



- Headed by the Supreme Court and 9 Justices
- Hears cases that include criminal and civil courts
- Interprets the U.S. Constitution
- Protects laws passed by congress
- Controls disputes between states
- Article III of the Constitution of the United States
- Guarantees that every person accused of offence has the right to a fair trial
- The Judicial Branch is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Balance: Checks on Congress

