

The Three Branches of US Government: Checks & Balances



Use the matching sheet ID when checking answers.

Match each branch of government on the left with its constitutional duty and head on the right.

1. Legislative Branch — Congress (Senate & House) → Drafts and passes federal laws, debates bills, approves budgets, and declares war.
2. Executive Branch — The President & Cabinet → Enforces, signs, or vetoes federal laws and acts as Commander-in-Chief of the military.
3. Judicial Branch — Supreme Court & Federal Courts → Interprets the Constitution, evaluates laws, and decides if laws violate individual rights.

Check your understanding with this civics question.

1. Why did the authors of the US Constitution divide power among three separate branches?

Answer: A. To prevent any single leader or group from gaining absolute control (checks and balances).
Separation of powers and checks and balances ensure that no single person or branch can abuse federal authority.