

Checks and balances of the 3 branches of government

Key terms:

1. **Checks and balances-** system in which each branch of government has checks (controls) on the other so that no one branch has all the power and that there is balance in government.

2. **Impeach-** to officially charge a government official with a crime. Note: This may lead to them being removed from office, but not always.

3. **Veto-** to reject a law.

4. **override-** to overrule a veto by the President and still pass a law.

5. **Ratify-** to approve a law or a decision

6. **Judicial review-** power of Congress to declare a law of Congress or an action of the President as unconstitutional.

<p>Legislative branch (Congress)</p> <p><u>Makes the laws</u></p>	<p>Checks on the executive branch</p> <p>a. Can <u>override</u> a president's <u>veto</u> with 2/3 vote of both parts of Congress so that a law can be passed</p> <p>b. Must <u>ratify</u> judges that the President appoints</p> <p>c. Must <u>ratify</u> treaties made by the President</p> <p>d. Can <u>impeach</u> the President for wrongdoing</p>	<p>Checks on the judicial branch</p> <p>a. Can <u>impeach</u> Supreme Court judges for wrongdoing.</p> <p>b. Can approve a new Amendment into law to change the Constitution</p>
<p>Executive branch (President)</p> <p><u>Enforces the laws</u></p>	<p>Checks on the legislative branch</p> <p>a. Can <u>veto</u> a bill (potential law) that Congress tries to pass</p> <p>b. Can call Congress into a special session</p>	<p>Checks on the judicial branch</p> <p>a. Can appoint federal judges to their position</p>
<p>Judicial branch (Supreme Court)</p> <p><u>Interprets (or explains) the laws</u></p>	<p>Checks on the legislative branch</p> <p>a. Can use <u>judicial review</u> on a law that is passed.</p>	<p>Checks on the executive branch</p> <p>a. Can use <u>judicial review</u> on an action the President takes</p>

