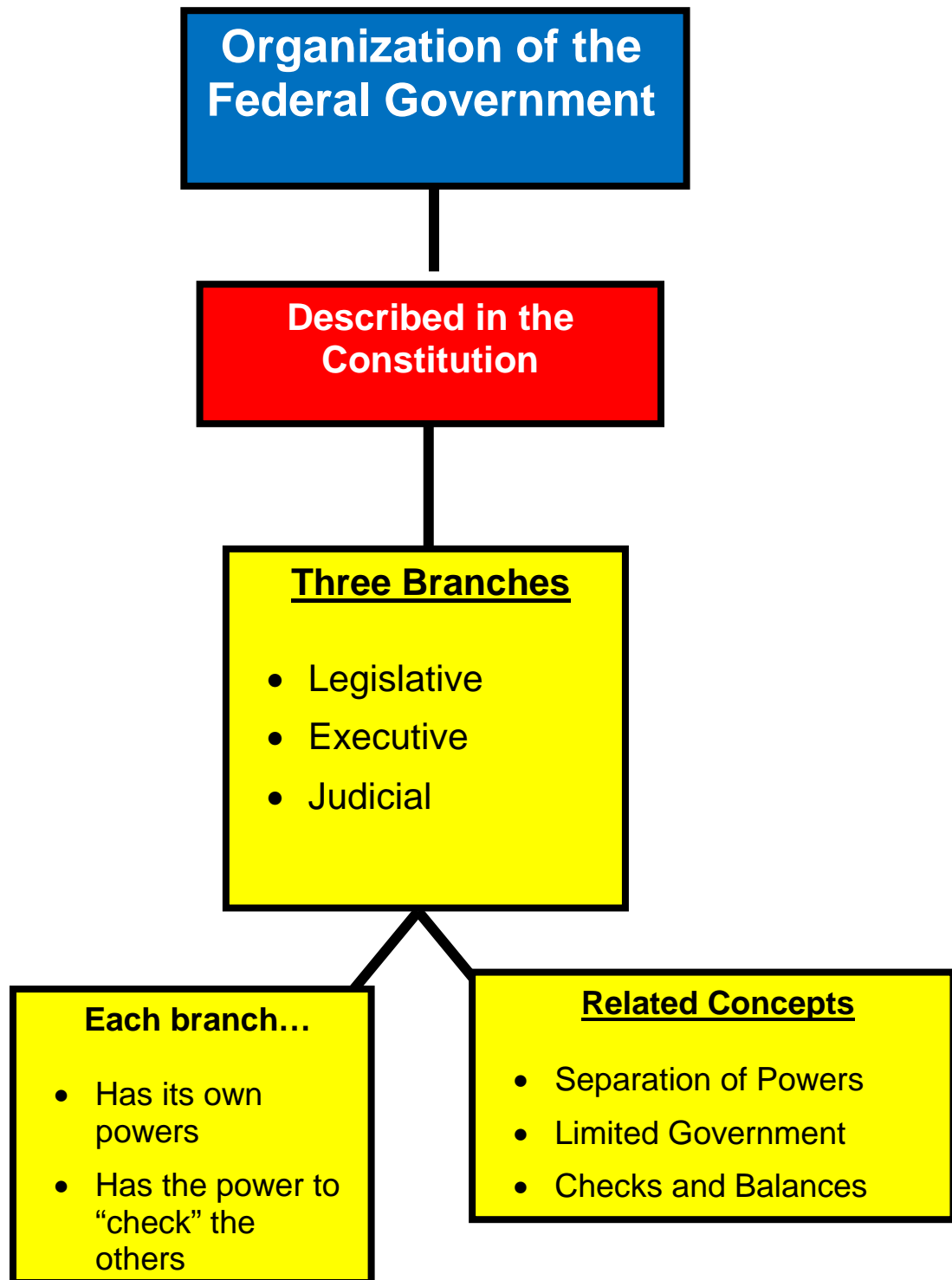


Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 1

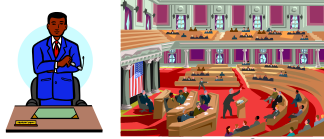
1. The Framers of the Constitution were afraid of giving one group or one person in government too much power.
2. To keep one group or one person from having too much power the Framers divided the government into three branches.
3. The three branches are given different functions and their own special powers. This principle is known as the separation of powers.
4. Each of the three branches has the authority to keep the power of the other branches “in check” or from becoming too powerful. For instance, the president has the power to veto a law passed by Congress.

Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

Constitution – Word Card #3 from Lesson 1

7 separation of powers



power is separated, or divided, among three branches of government



Example: Separation of power helps to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

(SS050102)

8 branches of government

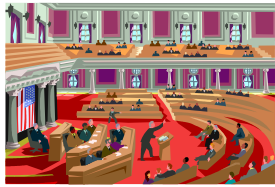
three parts of government, each with separate powers

Example: The United States Constitution separates power among the three branches of government. One branch of government makes laws, another branch enforces the laws, and the third branch interprets what the laws mean.

(SS050102)

9 legislative branch

the branch of government that makes laws



Example: The legislative branch made several laws relating to water pollution.

(SS050102)

10 executive branch

the branch of government that enforces laws



Example: It is up to the executive branch to enforce new laws.

(SS050102)

11 judicial branch

the branch of government that decides what laws mean



Example: The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and other courts as created by Congress.

(SS050102)

12 articles

parts of the Constitution

Example: The first three articles of the Constitution establish the three branches of government

(SS050102)

13
checks and balances



the way in which the different branches of government keep each other from having too much power

Example: A veto is an example of checks and balances.

(SS050102)

14
veto



when the President turns down a bill or refuses to sign it into law

Example: The President vetoed the bill because he did not agree with it.

(SS050102)

15
override



when the Congress votes to cancel a President's veto

Example: The U.S. Congress passed the law by overriding the President's veto of the bill.

(SS050102)

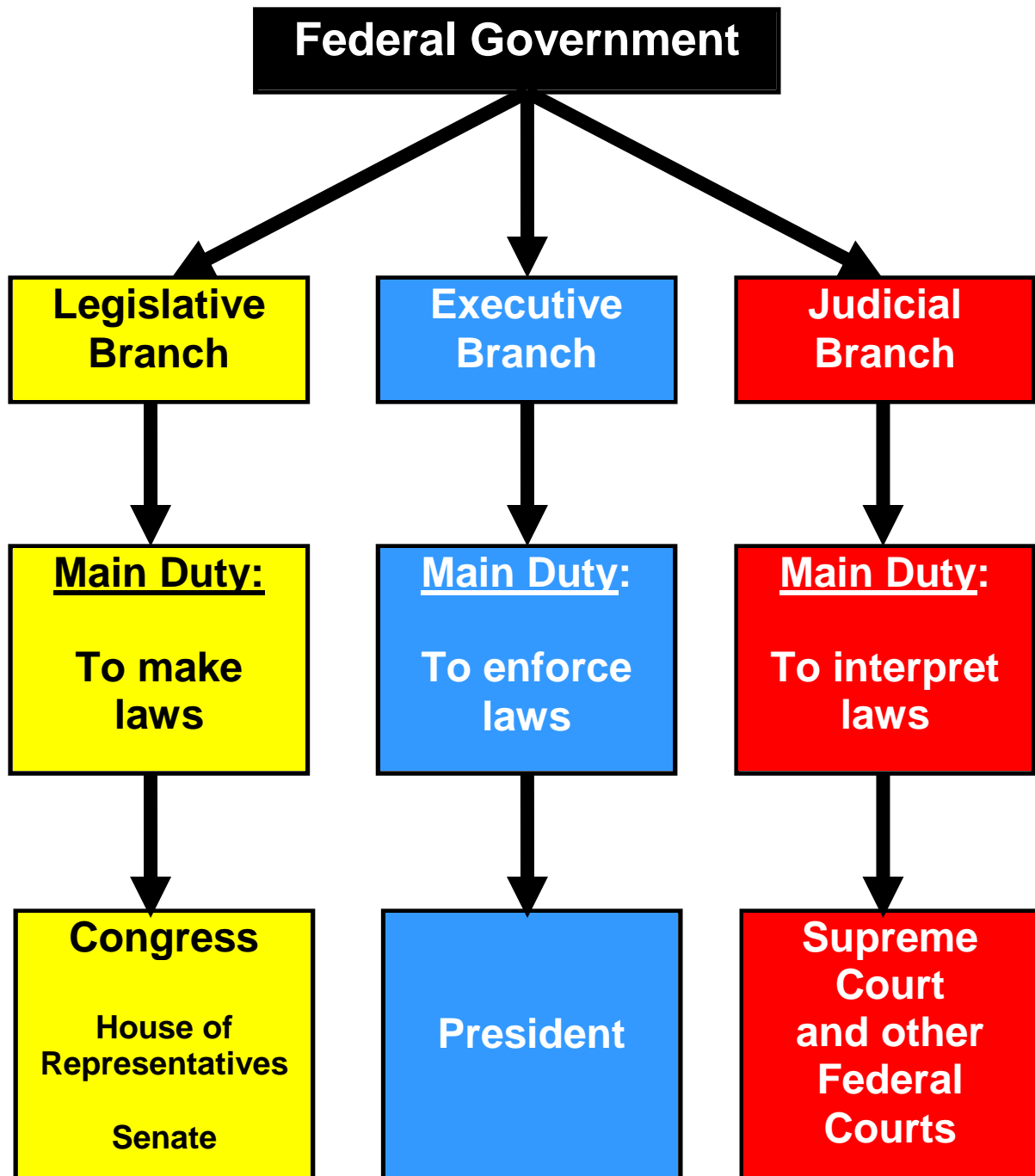
16
limited government

the government can only do what the people have given it the power to do

Example: Limited government means the government can't just do whatever it wants.

(SS050102)

Separation of Powers



Excerpts from the United States Constitution

Article. I.

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

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Article III.

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. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office

Information Sheet for Article I-The Legislative Branch

Who?	The Congress made up of the House of Representatives (435 members) and the Senate (100 members).	
Requirements	<p><u>House of Representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25 years old • A U.S. citizen for the past 7 years • Must live in the state they represent 	<p><u>Senate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 30 years old • A U.S. citizen for the past 9 years • Must live in the state they represent
Term	<p><u>House of Representatives</u></p> <p>2 years</p>	<p><u>Senate</u></p> <p>6 years</p>
Special Powers	<p><u>House of Representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must introduce laws that make people pay taxes • Can decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate 	<p><u>Senate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must approve any treaties of the President • Must approve any people the President recommends for jobs including ambassadors and Supreme Court Justices • Can hold a trial for a government official who does something very wrong
Powers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make laws 2. To tax the people 3. To raise an army and navy to defend the country 4. To declare war 5. To create a court system 6. To coin money 7. To regulate trade between states 8. To regulate trade between the U.S. and other countries 	
Limits on Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot make unfair laws such as those that would limit a person's right to freedom of speech or religion • The Supreme Court can declare a law unconstitutional • The President can veto a law 	

Excerpt from Article I-Section 8

What Power?	Article I – Section 8
	The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout 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 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 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;

Excerpt from Article I-Section 8 – Answer Sheet

What Power?	Article I – Section 8
#2	The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
	To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
#7, #8	To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;
#6	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;
#5	To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
#4	To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;
#3	To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;
#3	To provide and maintain a navy;
#1	To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

Information Sheet for Article II-The Executive Branch

Who?	The President
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 35 years old • A natural-born citizen of the United States • Must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years
Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A term of four years for President • A President may serve two terms
Other Members of the Executive Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vice-President • Members of the President’s Cabinet such as the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Defense • Officials of independent agencies that help carry out policy or provide special services such as the U.S. Postal Service, the National Science Foundation, and the Central Intelligence Agency
Powers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To serve as Head of State in meeting with leaders of other countries 2. To act as Commander in Chief of the armed forces 3. To make treaties with other countries with the approval of the Senate 4. To appoint ambassadors and judges to the Supreme Court with the approval of the Senate 5. To conduct a war 6. To recommend legislation to Congress 7. To convene Congress in special circumstances 8. To serve as the “boss” of federal government workers 9. To sign or veto a bill from Congress
Limits on Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President can conduct a war, but only the Congress can declare war. • The President controls the armed forces, but the Congress controls the money needed to support the armed forces. • The Senate must approve of presidential appointments. • The House of Representatives has the power to impeach the President for wrong-doing. • The Senate has the power to try the President after he or she has been impeached.

Excerpt from Article II- Section 2

What Power?	Article II – Section 2
	<p>The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.</p>
	<p>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, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.</p>
	<p>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.</p>

Excerpt from Article II- Section 2 – Answer Sheet

What Power?	Article II – Section 2
#2	The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.
#3 #4	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, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.
	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.

Information Sheet for Article III-The Judicial Branch

Who?	The Supreme Court is made up of 9 Justices.
Requirements	There are no requirements but to this date all Supreme Court Justices have been trained in the law. Many have served as members of Congress, governors, or members of a President's Cabinet.
Term	Supreme Court Justices serve for life unless they resign, retire or are impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted by the Senate.
Other Members of the Judicial Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judges of lower federal courts.• These federal judges are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.• Like Supreme Court Justices, federal judges serve for life or until they resign, retire or are found guilty of serious crimes.
Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To declare a law made by Congress unconstitutional• To declare an action of the President unconstitutional• To declare a state law unconstitutional if it conflicts with the laws made by Congress or with the Constitution
Limits on Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congress has the power to impeach, try and remove Supreme Court Justices and federal judges from office.• Courts do not have the power to enforce their decisions. The President is responsible for this.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Writing a Bill

Someone has an idea.

A member of Congress agrees with the idea and writes a proposal for the law which is called a "bill."



Going to Committee

The bill is sent to a committee that analyzes and discusses the bill.

The committee may re-write the bill, accept it as it is, or do nothing (table the bill).



Getting a Majority of Votes

When the committee sends the bill back, Congress votes on it.

If the bill started in the House, the House votes first. If it passes it moves on to the Senate.

If the bill started in the Senate, the Senate votes first. If the bill passes the Senate it goes to the House of Representatives.



Getting the President's Signature

If the bill passes in both houses of Congress, it is sent to the President.

If the President signs the bill it becomes law.

If the President vetoes the bill, it can only become a law if Congress overrides the veto with a 2/3 vote.

Article I-Section 7- How a Bill Becomes a Law

Section 7. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills.

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, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. 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. But in all such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be 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.