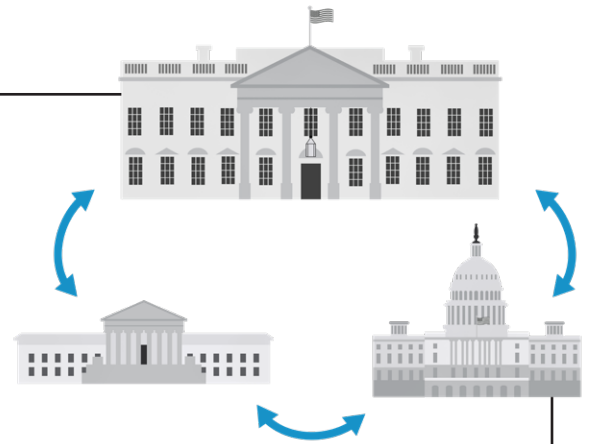


Name: _____

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



The United States did not want any one person in its government to have too much power. To prevent this, it created a federal government with three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Each branch has separate jobs. The branches also have ways to balance each other's power.

The executive branch is made up of the President, Vice President, Executive Office of the President, and Cabinet. It also includes a number of government agencies. This branch executes and enforces laws. This means it carries them out and makes sure other people carry them out too.

Checking and Balancing

The President is head of the executive branch. This person has the most power to balance the other branches of government. The bills the legislative branch makes are signed into law by the President. Presidents can veto bills they don't like instead. Presidents can also make executive orders. These orders act a bit like laws. They decide how the executive branch manages business or carries out a law.

Interestingly, the Vice President directly affects the legislative branch. The Vice President is President of the Senate! If there's a tie, the Vice President casts the winning vote.

When it comes to the judicial branch, presidents appoint the judges. (They also appoint the heads of many executive departments and organizations, like the Post Office.) Presidents can also grant pardons to people convicted of federal crimes.

Being Checked and Balanced

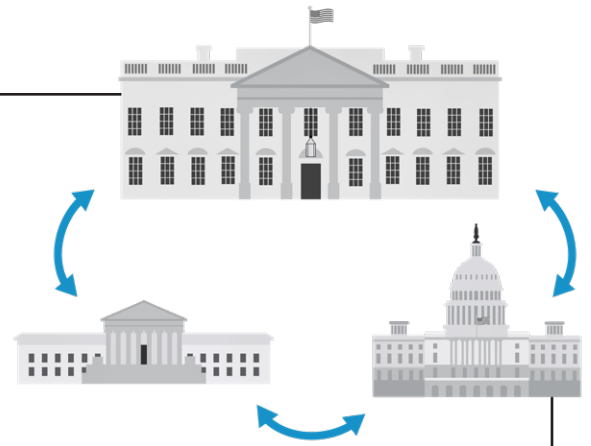
The President is also checked most by the other branches. Presidential appointments need to be approved by the Senate. So do treaties. Congress can override a veto if two-thirds still vote to approve it into a law. They can pass laws that cancel out or undo an executive order too. Federal courts can also get rid of the orders if they find them unconstitutional.

Congress can also investigate and put a president on trial if a crime is committed. If more than half of the House—and then more than two-thirds of the Senate—votes in agreement, presidents can be removed from office. This process is called impeachment.

Name: _____

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



1. Write an **E** (executive), **L** (legislative), or **J** (judicial) on the lines to show which branch is checking or balancing the other in each example.

- a. J finds an executive order unconstitutional E
- b. _____ investigates the President _____
- c. _____ appoints a judge _____
- d. _____ Vice President breaks a tie vote _____
- e. _____ rejects a treaty _____

2. Which of the following can presidents do completely on their own?

- a. pass a new law
- b. finish appointing a federal judge
- c. make a treaty
- d. pass an executive order

3. Reread the following sentence from the article.

Presidents can also grant pardons to people convicted of federal crimes.

What does the word convicted mean?

- a. wrongfully blamed
- b. found guilty
- c. might commit
- d. found innocent

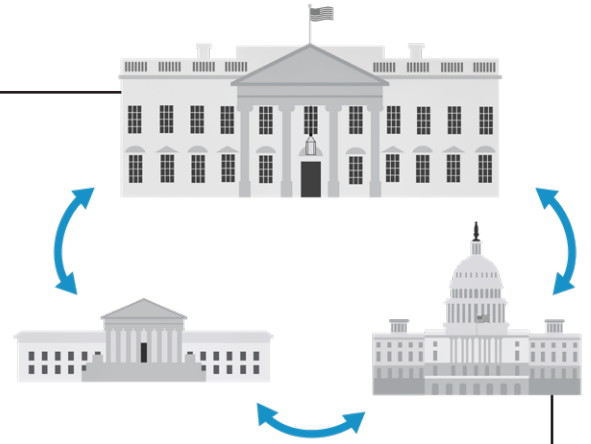
4. How much of each chamber of Congress needs to vote to remove a president from office?

5. Does vetoing a bill completely prevent it from becoming a law? Why or why not?

Name: _____

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



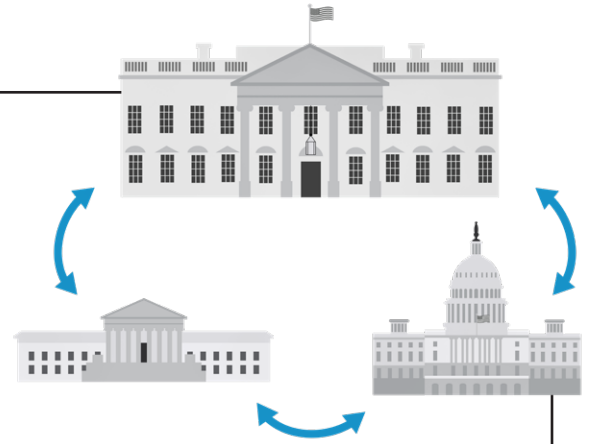
The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

- _____ i l t r a
clue: process where a court judges something
- _____ c v n i e d t c o
clue: found guilty of committing a crime
- _____ t x u e c e e
clue: to carry out
- _____ p d o a n r
clue: forgiveness or removal of punishment
- _____ r r o d e i v e
clue: to undo; to cancel out and do something else
- _____ a n g a e m
clue: to control how something is done
- _____ e v o t
clue: to disapprove a bill
- _____ l e c c n a
clue: to stop or end
- _____ t t i e v a n g e s i
clue: to carefully question and look into
- _____ i n c m p h m t e a e
clue: process to remove someone from office

Name: _____

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



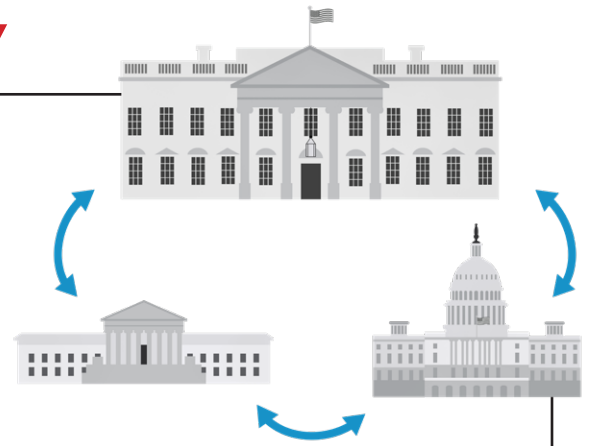
In the article, "A System of Checks and Balances: Executive Branch," you learned about many ways the executive branch balances and is balanced by the other branches of government.

The President is the head of government. Do you think that makes the executive branch the most powerful branch? Why or why not? Support your argument using information from the article. Make sure to mention powers the other branches have.

ANSWER KEY

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



1. Write an **E** (executive), **L** (legislative), or **J** (judicial) on the lines to show which branch is checking or balancing the other in each example.

- J** finds an executive order unconstitutional **E**
- L** investigates the President **E**
- E** appoints a judge **J**
- E** Vice President breaks a tie vote **L**
- L** rejects a treaty **E**

2. Which of the following can presidents do completely on their own?

- pass a new law
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- make a treaty
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3. Reread the following sentence from the article.

Presidents can also grant pardons to people convicted of federal crimes.

What does the word convicted mean?

- wrongfully blamed
- found guilty**
- might commit
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4. How much of each chamber of Congress needs to vote to remove a president from office?

More than half of the House and more than two-thirds of the Senate.

5. Does vetoing a bill completely prevent it from becoming a law? Why or why not?

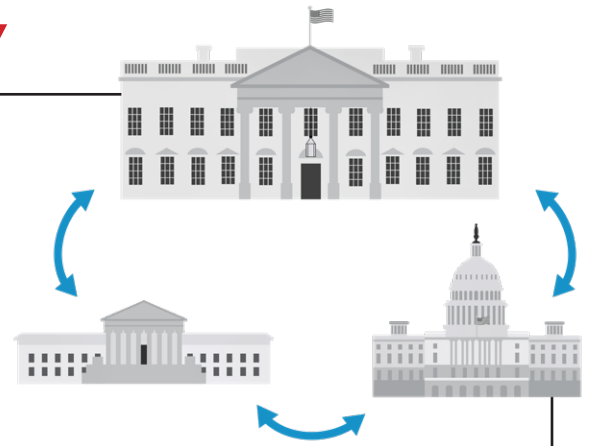
No, it does not completely prevent a bill from becoming a law.

Vetoed can be overridden if two-thirds of Congress still approve a bill. It will still become a law.

ANSWER KEY

A System of Checks and Balances:

Executive Branch



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. **trial** i l t r a
clue: process where a court judges something
2. **convicted** c v n i e d t c o
clue: found guilty of committing a crime
3. **execute** t x u e c e e
clue: to carry out
4. **pardon** p d o a n r
clue: forgiveness or removal of punishment
5. **override** r r o d e i v e
clue: to undo; to cancel out and do something else
6. **manage** a n g a e m
clue: to control how something is done
7. **veto** e v o t
clue: to disapprove a bill
8. **cancel** l e c c n a
clue: to stop or end
9. **investigate** t t i e v a n g e s i
clue: to carefully question and look into
10. **impeachment** i n c m p h m t e a e
clue: process to remove someone from office