



The Three Branches of U.S. Government



Legislative



The Congress

Senate - House of Representatives

Each state has two senators

The House has 435 representatives divided among the states in proportion to their population

House representatives serve two-year terms and senators serve six-year terms

The Congress enacts legislation and creates new laws for the President to sign

The Congress approves judges and cabinet members appointed by the President

Congress has the power to declare war

Executive



The President

Vice President - Cabinet

The President/Vice President are elected in a general election every four years

The President appoints judges and members of his cabinet

The President signs into law or vetos bills passed by Congress

The President is the Commander in Chief and head of the military

The Vice President is the President of the Senate and can vote to break a tie in Congress

The President has power to pardon people convicted of federal crimes

Judicial



The Courts

Supreme Court - Federal Courts

Federal judges are appointed by the President

The Supreme Court has 9 justices

Judges do not create new laws

Judges interpret existing laws and determine if a law is unconstitutional

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and can overturn decisions made in lower courts