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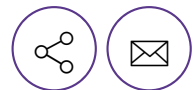


My Senator and Me

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Three Branches: Separate but Equal

Grades

**3–5, 6–
8**

The powers of our federal (national) government are divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The branches are separate but equal. They each have special responsibilities concerning laws, the principles that govern our nation.

Legislative Branch

Congress: Senate (100 members) and the House of Representatives (435 members)

**** Makes Laws ****

- Creates and passes bills (proposed laws)
- Approves appointments and treaties (agreements) made by the President
- Sets and collects taxes
- Coins money
- Makes rules for trade between states
- Declares war

Executive Branch

- Signs into law or vetoes (rejects)

bills passed by Congress

- Commands the armed forces
- Appoints judges, ambassadors, and other federal officials
- Makes treaties with other countries
- Receives diplomats from other countries
- Represents the U.S. at special ceremonies

Judicial Branch (*Supreme Court*)

- Can decide if a law is constitutional
- Can decide if a Presidential action is constitutional
- Reviews court cases related to the Constitution and federal laws
- Reviews cases tried in lower courts

Adapted from *Scholastic Skills Books: Our Nation's Government* ("Legislative Branch" and "Judicial Branch" editions).



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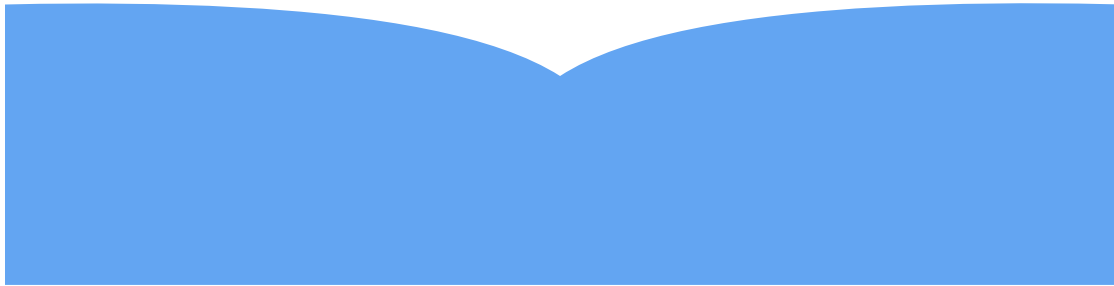
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