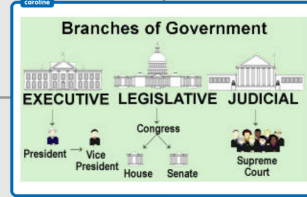


9-12 American Government/Civics

SSC04 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the national government.
a. Describe the structure and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
b. Analyze the relationship between the three branches in a system of checks and balances and separation of powers.



Structure: Where the Executive and Legislative branches are elected by the people, members of the Judicial Branch are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Powers: The courts only try actual cases and controversies — a party must show that it has been harmed in order to bring suit in court. This means that the courts do not issue advisory opinions on the constitutionality of laws or the legality of actions if the ruling would have no practical effect.

A) Judicial Branch

Structure: The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The Vice President is also part of the Executive Branch, ready to assume the Presidency should the need arise.

Powers: The President is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet.

A) Executive Branch

A) Legislative Branch

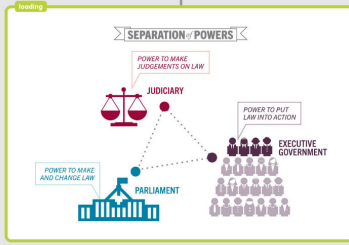
Structure: Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. The House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population.

Powers: The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.

Definition

an act of vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government in separate bodies

Separation of Powers



Part of our Constitution. It guarantees that no part of the government becomes too powerful

Checks and Balances

Legislative branch is in charge of making laws

Executive branch can veto the law, thus making it harder for the legislative branch to pass the law

Judicial branch may also say that the law is unconstitutional and thus make sure it is not a law.

Legislative branch approves the choice of the executive branch

Can also remove a president or judge that is not doing his/her job properly

Executive branch appoints judges