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So that no one part of the government would become too powerful, the men who wrote the Constitution distributed federal power between all three branches. Which part is responsible for applying laws to real life situations? The President is the recognized leader of the country and serves as the Commander in Chief of the U.S. military. The Vice President is the President's backup in case the President cannot fulfill his or her duties at any time. The Executive Office of the President (EOP) is the name given collectively to the many people who support the President as he carries out his or her day-to-day responsibilities. The OMB is the largest part of the EOP, employing approximately 500 people. Its mission is to help the President implement his or her vision for the Executive branch. When the Constitution was ratified in 1788, the Presidency had significantly less power than it does today. Andrew Jackson strengthened the party system by giving loyal followers presidential appointment. He wielded the veto extensively and exerted federal power over that of the states by defeating South Carolina's nullification of a federal tariff law. Power having to do with the creation and application of law is distributed equally throughout the three branches of the U.S. government. The appointment of federal judges is a power held by the Executive branch, while the Legislative branch has the power to confirm or deny these appointments. The Constitution satisfies the requirement for a judicial branch with only the Supreme Court, but in practice, the Judicial Branch is made up of three different types of courts that each have a different purpose. Trial courts hear two types of cases. In a civil case, the court decides whether or not to award plaintiff compensation for damages or injury allegedly caused by the defendant. To specifically address the issue of balancing power between the federal government and the states, an additional balance of power was built into the Legislative branch, which consists of two distinct bodies, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Which branch is primarily responsible for checking the Executive branch? In the system of checks and balances between the three branches of government, the Legislative branch is responsible primarily for checking the Executive branch. Constitutional amendments have limited the kinds of laws Congress can make. Unlike state constitutions, the federal Constitution did not originally contain a bill of rights. The Federalists argued that there was no need for a bill of rights in a Constitution that placed so many limits on federal power. The Second Amendment says that the government cannot infringe on the people's right to keep and bear arms, so Congress cannot make any law that might limit this right. Health care in the United States is a complex subject that spans both the public and the private sectors, and both areas include many conflicting interests. Every presidential administration, i.e., the Executive branch, usually has some agenda with regards to what kinds of health care they support and for whom. The Founding Fathers of the United States after having endured a tenuous reign by England felt that their new government should have checks and balances built in to ensure that any decisions were evaluated and agreed upon by the people for the people. The United States Constitution created three arms (executive, judicial, legislative) of the government to maintain balance. The legislative arm (congress) makes the laws of the federal government. They control all of the federal money and have the right to declare war. The executive branch (President and Vice President) was formed to enforce these laws at the federal level. This collection of people declares states of emergency, appoints Supreme Court Judges, and spends money that Congress allocates. The judicial branch (Supreme Court) is tasked with interpreting these laws and applying them to real life situations. They can also determine if a law is unconstitutional and throw it out altogether. The United States Constitution ensures the separation of powers. This means power is not held by the federal government but divided between federal and state governments. However, it also means that the federal government is divided into three branches to ensure there is no concentration of power at the federal level. The executive, the legislature, and the judiciary are the three branches of government. The legislature creates the country's laws, the executive carries out these laws, and the judiciary interprets and evaluates laws and determines whether they are constitutional. To learn more about the three branches of our government, keep reading. This article will answer all your questions regarding how these branches function, so you'll better understand the U.S. federal government going forward. Understanding the Three Branches of the Government The following is a breakdown of the duties of each branch of government. The Legislature The legislature of the United States is also called the Congress and is divided into the lower house (House of Representatives) and the upper house (Senate). This part of the U.S. government is responsible for: Drafting laws Confirming nominations for positions of the Supreme Court justices. Confirming nominations for positions of the head of federal agencies (i.e., Department of Education, Department of Defense, and Department of the Interior) Declaring war on other countries The legislature is arguably the most powerful branch of the federal government. They also have the power to consent to or deny any international treaties agreed to by the executive, including ones relating to trade and war. The House of Representatives This is the lower house of Congress. There are 435 elected Representatives and several non-voting delegates. Each Representative represents their home district, and the number of Representatives per state is dependent on the population of the state and can change after a census. All revenue-based changes to the law (such as tax law) must begin with the House. Additionally, impeachment cases (such as those for Presidents and Supreme Court judges) must start in the House - if a simple majority of Representatives approves the charges, the case is then sent to the Senate. The House is primarily concerned with government spending and taxation. Each Representative serves a two-year term before elections are held for their seat. The Senate This is the upper house of Congress. There are 100 elected Senators - two per state. Each Senator represents all the citizens of their state, rather than only the residents in their district. The Senate has powers over international treaties and approving federal nominations. They can draft bills unrelated to revenue and have final control over impeachment proceedings. However, all bills must go through both houses. If a bill begins in the Senate, it must then go through the House, and vice versa. Each Senator serves a six-year term. The Executive The executive branch of the country is headed by the President and Vice President. It implements and enforces the laws passed by the legislature. This branch can also negotiate with foreign governments (though Congress must approve all treaties). The President and Vice President are the heads of the executive, other members of the executive branch include the members of the Cabinet and the members of the various federal agencies. These agencies include federal law enforcement agencies, which is how the executive can implement laws. Furthermore, the executive also includes the armed forces. The President is the head of the executive branch (though Congress has the ability to override the president's veto). The Judiciary The judiciary is headed by the federal judiciary, the Supreme Court, which is the final court of appeals. Judges are appointed and confirmed (impeached and removed). There is no until death or removal from office. The judiciary is responsible for interpreting the law and determining how it applies to individual cases, and determine whether a given law is legal according to the Constitution. The Supreme Court is the head of the judiciary, and its decisions are final and cannot be appealed. However, in some cases, federal law can overturn the court's decision. For example, the well-known case of Dred Scott v. Sandford was superseded by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Conclusion The executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches are the three parts of the United States government. The division of the government into three branches prevents the consolidation of power by one person (or a small group of people). It ensures that the government works for the benefit of all citizens by providing a system of checks and balances. Reviews This product has not yet been rated. 0 ratings 0% found this document useful. (0 votes) 208 views The document provides an answer key for a worksheet on the branches of government, detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. It includes ... SaveSave Branches-Of-Government-Worksheet-Answer-Key-PDF For Later 0% found this document useful, undefined Read these sentences from the text. "The United States Constitution was written over two hundred years ago. It explains how the United States government should work. The people who wrote the Constitution did not want one person or group to have too much power. That was why they divided the government into three parts, known as branches." Why does the author begin this article by talking about the Constitution.