

3 Branches of Government

5th Grade

Legislative, executive, judicial — powers, people, and the checks between them.

LEGISLATIVE

Congress

Makes the laws

- Senate — 100 members, 2 per state
- House — 435 members, by population
- Controls spending and taxes
- Declares war

EXECUTIVE

President

Carries out the laws

- President and Vice President
- The Cabinet and federal agencies
- Commander in chief
- Signs or vetoes bills

JUDICIAL

Supreme Court

Interprets the laws

- 9 justices, appointed for life
- Decides if a law is constitutional
- Hears appeals
- Judicial review

CHECKS & BALANCES — nobody gets to act alone

Congress → **President** can override a veto, controls the budget, can impeach

Congress → **Courts** confirms judges, can propose amendments

President → **Congress** can veto a bill

President → **Courts** appoints the justices

Courts → **Congress** can rule a law unconstitutional

THE POINT

Power is split three ways on purpose — so no single branch can run the country alone.