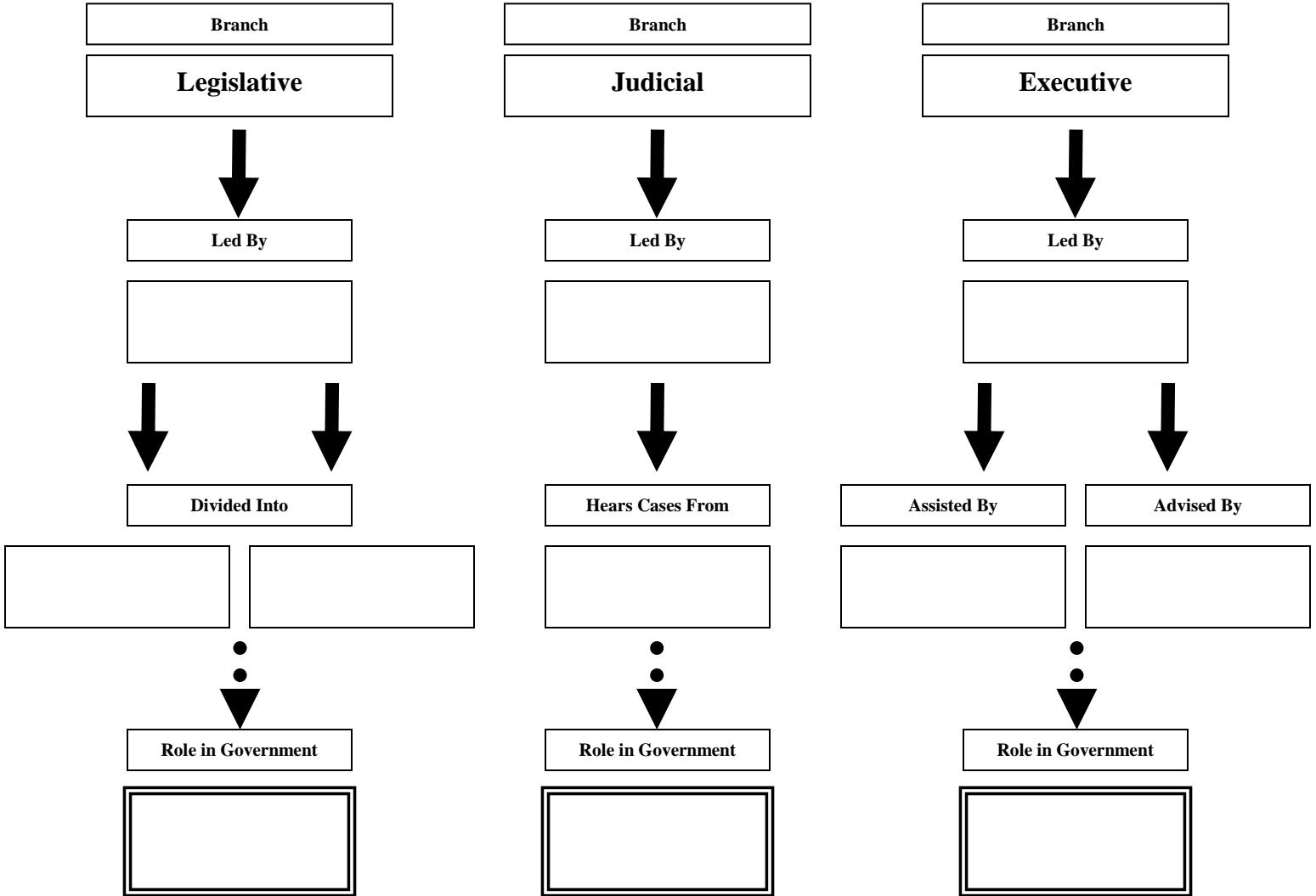


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Three Branches of the American Government Packet

### THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

**Directions:** Use the Civics in Action section in your book to complete the flow chart below by filling in the blanks with words from the word bank. (11 pts.)



<b>WORD BANK</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Other Federal Courts</b>
	<b>Carries Out the Laws</b>	<b>President</b>
	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Senate</b>
	<b>House of Representatives</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>
	<b>Interprets the Laws</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Makes the Laws</b>	

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Directions:** Find the information to complete the chart for each house of Congress using the Constitution and the paragraphs below. (20 pts.)

### House of Representatives

One of the two lawmaking bodies established as the result of the Great Compromise is the House of Representatives. The Constitution provided for its members, called representatives, to be elected by eligible voters in the states. The House is also called the Lower House because it has always been the lawmaking body elected by the people every two years. Members of the House can introduce any type of bill. For a bill to pass, both houses of Congress must pass identical versions of the bill by a majority vote. The House is the larger of the two lawmaking bodies of Congress.

The Constitution says the members of the House of Representatives should select a Speaker of the House from its membership to preside over its meetings. All representatives have legal immunity as members of the House. That means they are protected for anything they write or say while in office. The Constitution also states that all representatives be paid for their service.

The Constitution gave Congress the power to determine the size of the House and to divide the representation in each state according to population. It also provided at least one representative per state. A census is taken every 10 years so the number of representatives may be reapportioned if necessary. When the House first met, 59 members were present. At the end of the first session, there were 65. In 1929, legislation was passed limiting the number of representatives to 435.

Only the House can bring charges of misconduct, or impeach a government official with a majority vote.

### Senate

The other lawmaking body of Congress is the Senate. It is also called the Upper House. Both bodies have about the same amount of power. The Senate can introduce all types of legislation except spending bills. Only the Senate can approve or reject treaties and certain Presidential nominations for government offices.

Originally, the Constitution gave each state legislature the power to select the senators from its states, but that was changed in 1913 by the 17th Amendment. Now, voters in each state elect them. There is equal representation from each state in the Senate. Two senators are elected regardless of the states' population. A senator is elected every six years. No two senators are elected for six-year terms at the same time from one state.

The only duty given the Vice President of the United States in the Constitution is that of President of the Senate. The Vice President presides over the sessions of the Senate but may only vote in case of a tie. The senators choose a President Pro Tem from their membership to preside over the sessions when the Vice President cannot be there. The Constitution provides all senators legal immunity and compensation for their services.

The Senate tries all impeachment cases and a 2/3 vote is necessary for conviction.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		SENATE
Qualifications (Article I, Sec. 2, Par. 2)		Qualifications (Article I, Sec. 3, Par. 3)
	Minimum Age	
	Length of Citizenship	
	Residence (Where Must They Live?)	
	Alternate Name	
	Length of Term in Years	
	Presiding Officer	
	Total Number of Members	
	Number for Each State	
	Impeachment Power	
	What Type of Bill Can They Introduce?	

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

**Directions:** Use Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution to answer the following questions. (7 pts.)

1. How long is a president's term? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who else is elected at the same time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The number of electors for each state is equal to what?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the president's current salary? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the three qualifications a person must have to be president?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

### Powers and Duties of the President

**Directions:** Article II, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution state the President's powers and duties. Place a check mark next to the powers and duties given to the President by the Constitution. (10 pts.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The President must give a "State of the Union" report to Congress.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The President appoints the Vice President.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The President appoints ambassadors with the approval of the Senate.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The President may pardon impeached government officials.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The President carries out the laws of the country.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The President has Congress greet visiting ambassadors.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The President may make treaties with the approval of the Senate.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The President commissions officers in the armed forces.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The President can break diplomatic relations with foreign countries.



## JUDICIAL BRANCH

**Directions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions below it. (7 pts.)

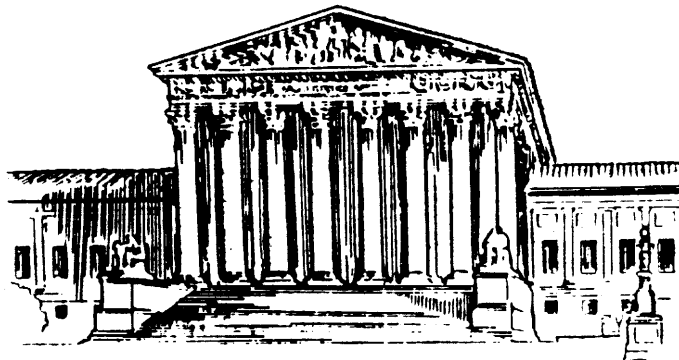
The Supreme Court heads the judicial branch of the United States government. It is the highest court in the nation and is the only court established by the Constitution.

The Supreme Court usually makes decisions of national importance. The Court acts within the laws stated in the Constitution. Because the wording of the Constitution is sometimes hard to understand, it can be difficult to interpret the law. That is one of the duties of the Supreme Court. When the Court does make a decision, all other courts in the country must follow that decision to guarantee equal justice to all Americans. The Constitution also gives the Supreme Court the power to judge whether federal, state, and local governments are acting within the law and also to decide if an action of the president is constitutional.

The Supreme Court has nine members. They consist of a chief justice and eight associate justices. The exact number is set by Congress and, over the years, has changed. Before 1869, the court had only six members. Since that time, it has had nine.

Justices have no set qualifications. However, the Constitution does state that they shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Most of them have also been prominent judges, lawyers, law teachers, or government officials.

1. The Supreme Court usually only hears what kind of cases?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The laws from what document guide the Supreme Court's decisions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The Supreme Court heads what branch of the government?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who appoints the Supreme Court justices?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who must approve this appointment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a judge who sits on the Supreme Court bench called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How many members are there in the Supreme Court?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Famous Supreme Court Decisions

The Supreme Court cases get their titles by using the names of the two sides involved. The first name is the one who lost a case in the lower court and is trying to appeal to the Supreme Court. The second name is the winner of the lower court who is now defending the lower court ruling.

**Directions:** Some of the Supreme Court cases and court decisions stand out in history because of their impact on our society. Match the titles of these better-known cases with the resulting court decisions. Use your book index for help. (4 pts.)

<b>A</b>	<b>Dred Scott</b> v. <b>Sanford</b>
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<b>B</b>	<b>Marbury</b> v. <b>Madison</b>
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<b>C</b>	<b>Plessy</b> v. <b>Ferguson</b>
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<b>D</b>	<b>Brown</b> v. <b>Board of Education</b>
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1. \_\_\_\_ Ruled school segregation unconstitutional.
2. \_\_\_\_ Ruled that the Supreme Court could overrule a law of Congress.
3. \_\_\_\_ Ruled that segregation was legal as long as it was separate but equal.
4. \_\_\_\_ Ruled that slavery was legal and constitutional in the United States.

### GOVERNMENT OFFICE HOLDERS

**Directions:** Use the Internet or other resources to find the names of the people who currently hold the following offices in the United States government. (21 pts.)

EXECUTIVE BRANCH	
_____	President
_____	Vice President
_____	Secretary of State
_____	Secretary of the Treasury
_____	Secretary of Defense
_____	Attorney General

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	
_____	President Pro Tem
_____	Senate Majority Leader
_____	Senate Minority Leader
_____	Speaker of the House
_____	House Majority Leader
_____	House Minority Leader

JUDICIAL BRANCH	
_____	Chief Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice
_____	Associate Justice