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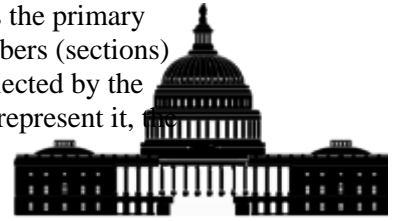
EQ- How are USA's three branches of government different?

Directions: Answer each section based on the reading above it. Source: <https://www.history.com> Images [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

# BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

## Legislative Branch

According to Article I of the Constitution, the **legislative branch** (the U.S. Congress) has the primary power to make the country's laws. This legislative power is divided further into the chambers (sections) of Congress: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**. Members of **Congress** are elected by the people of the United States. While each **state** gets the same number of **senators** (two) to represent it, **number of representatives** for each state is based on the state's **population**.



1. How does the legislative branch impact America?

2. What are the 2 chambers of Congress?



3. How are members of Congress elected?

## House and Senate

Therefore, while there are **100 senators**, there are **435 elected members of the House**. To pass an act of **legislation (bill)**, both houses must pass the same version of a **bill** by majority vote. Once that happens, the bill goes to the **president**, who can either sign it into law or reject it using the **veto** power assigned in the **Constitution**. In the case of a regular **veto**, Congress can override the **veto** by a **two-thirds** vote of both houses. Both the **veto** power and Congress' ability to override a veto are examples of the system of **checks and balances** intended by the **Constitution** to prevent any one branch from gaining too much power.



4. How can a president reject a bill?

5. How can Congress override the veto?

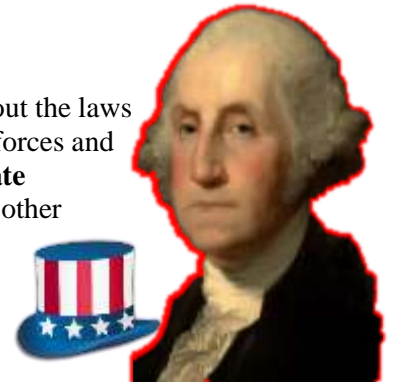


6. Why was a system of checks and balances created?

## Executive Branch

The executive branch, with the **president** as its head, has the power to enforce or carry out the laws of the nation. In addition to the **president**, who is the commander in chief of the armed forces and head of state, the **executive branch** includes the vice president and the **Cabinet**; the **State Department**, **Department of Defense** and 13 other executive departments; and various other federal agencies, commissions and committees.

7. How does the president have power?



8. What other areas does the executive branch include? (2 examples)

## Judicial Branch

USA's judicial power can apply and interpret the laws. The **Constitution** didn't specify the powers of the **Supreme Court** or explain how the **judicial branch** should be organized, and for a time the judiciary took a back seat to the other branches of government. All that changed with **Marbury v. Madison**, a case in 1803. This created the Supreme Court's power of **judicial review**, by which it determines the constitutionality of executive and legislative acts. **Judicial review** is another key example of the **checks and balances** system in action.



9. What did the Constitution not specify?

10. How did Marbury v. Madison impact the power of the Supreme court?