Who Does What?

Trace the people and responsibilities in three branches of government.

SS24.6.16b "Identify key positions in each branch and describe their responsibilities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Underline each position named, then circle words that tell what that person does.

A Water Law Takes Shape

1. Imagine a town discovers unsafe drinking water. Residents ask Congress to consider a national water safety law. Congress belongs to the legislative branch. A representative speaks for a district in the House of Representatives, while a senator speaks for an entire state in the Senate. Members of both chambers propose bills, debate changes, and vote. The Speaker of the House guides House debates and helps decide which bills get a vote. Both chambers must pass the same bill before it can go to the president.

2. Suppose both chambers pass the water safety bill. The president leads the executive branch and can sign the bill into law or veto it. If it becomes law, the executive branch carries it out. The president appoints an administrator to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, with Senate approval. The EPA administrator oversees the agency's work on water rules and pollution checks. The vice president also serves in the executive branch, advises the president, and can cast a vote in the Senate when senators are tied.

3. Now imagine a company challenges a water rule in court. The judicial branch does not write the law or inspect the water. A federal district judge hears evidence in a trial and decides the case under the law. If the decision is appealed, judges on a federal court of appeals review it for legal errors. Supreme Court justices may review a later appeal if their Court agrees to hear the case. They decide what the Constitution and federal laws mean when those questions come before them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the people represented by a representative different from the people represented by a senator?

2. What does the Speaker of the House do that helps shape the House's work?

3. After Congress passes the water safety bill, what can the president do? If it becomes law, what work does the EPA administrator oversee?

4. How does a federal district judge's job differ from the job of judges on a federal court of appeals?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Congress considers a national law on safer car seats. In four sentences, explain what a representative or senator, the president, and a federal district judge would each do if the bill becomes law and a company later challenges it.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does What?

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.16b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Underline each position named, then circle words that tell what that person does. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the people represented by a representative different from the people represented by a senator?	**A representative speaks for a district, while a senator speaks for an entire state.**
2	What does the Speaker of the House do that helps shape the House's work?	**The Speaker guides House debates and helps decide which bills get a vote.**
3	After Congress passes the water safety bill, what can the president do? If it becomes law, what work does the EPA administrator oversee?	**The president can sign or veto the bill. The EPA administrator oversees the agency's work on water rules and pollution checks.**
4	How does a federal district judge's job differ from the job of judges on a federal court of appeals?	**A district judge hears evidence in a trial and decides the case. Appeals judges review the decision for legal errors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A representative debates and votes on the car seat bill in the House. A senator debates and votes on the bill in the Senate. If both chambers pass it, the president signs it into law. If a company challenges the law, a federal district judge hears the case and decides it under the law.

Accept either a representative or a senator in Part 3. The response should give accurate responsibilities for one legislative position, the president, and a federal district judge.