

Florida Branch Roles

Read how Florida divides government work among three branches.

SS.4.CG.3.1 "Explain the structure and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government in Florida."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the name of each branch. Underline one sentence that tells what each branch does, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three branches.

Three Jobs, Shared Power

- ① Florida has three branches of state government. Each branch has a different job, so power is shared. The legislative branch writes and votes on bills, which are ideas for laws. Florida's Legislature has two groups, the Senate and the House of Representatives. State senators and representatives meet in Tallahassee to debate bills and decide how state money should be spent.
- ② The executive branch carries out Florida's laws. The governor leads this branch and can sign a bill into law or veto it. A veto rejects the bill. The lieutenant governor, attorney general, chief financial officer, and commissioner of agriculture are also executive officials. They help run state programs and services, such as emergency response, public safety, finances, and agriculture.
- ③ The judicial branch includes Florida's state courts. Courts decide cases when people, businesses, or government offices disagree about a law or believe a law was not followed. Judges use the Florida Constitution and laws to make decisions. The Florida Supreme Court is the highest state court. By giving each branch its own work, Florida's government can prevent one branch from having too much power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is Florida's legislative branch organized, and what does it do?

2 What is the main job of the executive branch? Name one action the governor can take with a bill.

3 When might a Florida court decide a case, and what do judges use to make decisions?

4 Why does Florida give each branch its own work?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine Florida is considering a new rule requiring bike lights at night. Write exactly three sentences telling what the legislative, executive, and judicial branches would each do with this rule.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each branch. Underline one sentence that tells what each branch does, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three branches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is Florida's legislative branch organized, and what does it do?	It has the Senate and the House of Representatives. It writes and votes on bills and decides how state money should be spent.
2	What is the main job of the executive branch? Name one action the governor can take with a bill.	The executive branch carries out laws. The governor can sign a bill into law or veto it.
3	When might a Florida court decide a case, and what do judges use to make decisions?	A court may decide a case when people, businesses, or government offices disagree about a law or think a law was not followed. Judges use the Florida Constitution and laws.
4	Why does Florida give each branch its own work?	It shares power and helps prevent one branch from having too much power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The legislative branch could debate and pass a bike-light bill. The governor could sign the bill, and executive officials could help carry it out. A court could decide a case if someone argued that the law was not followed or conflicted with the Florida Constitution.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each branch's role that match the passage. For Part 3, accept reasonable three-sentence scenarios that correctly assign lawmaking to the legislative branch, carrying out laws to the executive branch, and deciding cases to the judicial branch.