

Branch Job Detectives

Read closely to find how the national branches work.

SS3CG1.a "Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each branch name, circle the president, Congress, and the Supreme Court of the United States, and put a star beside every sentence that tells a branch's job.

Three Jobs, Three Branches

- ① At the national level, the United States has three branches of government. Each branch has a different main job. This helps keep one person or group from having too much power. The executive branch is led by the president. The president carries out, or puts into action, the laws that the national government has made.
- ② Congress is the legislative branch. Congress includes the Senate and the House of Representatives. Its members consider ideas for new laws. An idea written in a certain form for Congress to consider is called a bill. Congress can discuss a bill and vote on it. If both parts of Congress approve a bill, it goes to the president.
- ③ The judicial branch includes the Supreme Court of the United States. Courts in this branch explain what laws mean in cases that come before them. They also decide whether laws follow the Constitution, the nation's basic set of rules. For example, the three branches may each have work to do as a bill moves forward, but their jobs are not the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which branch is led by the president, and what is its main job?

2 What branch is Congress, and what does Congress do with a bill?

3 What is a bill?

4 What are two jobs of the judicial branch?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine Congress is considering a bill about safer playgrounds. Write three sentences that describe what Congress could do, what the president could do after the bill becomes a law, and what the Supreme Court could decide if a case about the law reached the Court.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each branch name, circle the president, Congress, and the Supreme Court of the United States, and put a star beside every sentence that tells a branch's job. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which branch is led by the president, and what is its main job?	The executive branch is led by the president. Its job is to carry out laws.
2	What branch is Congress, and what does Congress do with a bill?	Congress is the legislative branch. It can discuss a bill and vote on it.
3	What is a bill?	A bill is an idea for a new law written in a certain form for Congress to consider.
4	What are two jobs of the judicial branch?	It explains what laws mean in cases and decides whether laws follow the Constitution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress could discuss the playground bill and vote to approve it. After the bill becomes a law, the president could carry out that law. If a case about the law reached the Supreme Court, the Court could decide whether the law follows the Constitution.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches that match the passage. For Part 3, look for an accurate role for each branch and a sequence in which Congress considers a bill before the president carries out a law.