Who Controls Relief?

A flood response shows how branches share and limit power.

USG.3.4 "Explain the relationships among branches of the United States government and Indiana government, which involve separation and sharing of powers as a means to limited government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one legislative funding action and circle one executive action in each government's flood response, then write F beside the federal court check and I beside the Indiana court check to trace how power is shared and limited.

After the Flood

1. After a severe flood, residents need safe drinking water and repairs to damaged roads. Congress could pass a bill setting aside federal money for disaster assistance. The president could sign the bill or veto it, and Congress could override a veto with a two-thirds vote in each chamber. Once funding becomes law, the president directs federal agencies to administer programs within the limits Congress set. If an agency denies a town's request for assistance, a federal court could hear a lawsuit claiming the agency broke the law governing that program. The court does not distribute the money itself.

2. Indiana's government faces its own decisions after the same flood. The General Assembly could pass a state bill funding road repairs and relief for affected communities. The governor could sign or veto the bill; a majority of the members elected to each chamber can override an Indiana governor's veto. The governor then oversees state agencies as they carry out the state program. If a resident challenges the state funding law as violating the Indiana Constitution, an Indiana court can decide that legal question. State judges do not choose which roads to repair or direct agency workers.

3. These actions show separate powers that must also be shared. Lawmakers authorize spending, but the executive branch can reject a bill through a veto. Lawmakers can override that rejection, with different vote thresholds in Washington and Indianapolis. Executive agencies carry out approved programs, but they cannot ignore the limits in the laws that created those programs. Courts can resolve legal disputes about government action, yet they cannot write a new relief budget. Federal and Indiana governments each have legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Requiring several branches to act, and allowing each to check another, makes it harder for one office to control the response alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How would Congress and the president share power over new federal flood assistance before an agency administers it?

2. How would the Indiana General Assembly's role differ from the governor's role in state road repairs?

3. If each executive vetoed a flood relief bill, how could lawmakers respond, and how would the required votes differ?

4. How could a court check government action in each flood program without running either program?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A heat wave leaves several Indiana towns without public cooling spaces. In five sentences, propose a state grant program with one clear rule for which towns qualify, explain how all three Indiana branches would be involved, and show how a disputed agency decision could be checked without a court running the program.

Who Controls Relief?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one legislative funding action and circle one executive action in each government's flood response, then write F beside the federal court check and I beside the Indiana court check to trace how power is shared and limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How would Congress and the president share power over new federal flood assistance before an agency administers it?	**Congress could pass the funding bill. The president could sign or veto it; once funding becomes law, the president directs agencies to administer the program within Congress's limits.**
2	How would the Indiana General Assembly's role differ from the governor's role in state road repairs?	**The General Assembly could pass a bill funding repairs. The governor could sign or veto it and would oversee the agencies carrying out the program.**
3	If each executive vetoed a flood relief bill, how could lawmakers respond, and how would the required votes differ?	**Congress could override the president's veto with a two-thirds vote in each chamber. Indiana lawmakers could override the governor's veto with a majority of the members elected to each chamber.**
4	How could a court check government action in each flood program without running either program?	**A federal court could hear a claim that an agency's denial broke the law governing its program. An Indiana court could decide whether the state funding law violates the Indiana Constitution. Neither court would administer relief.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Indiana General Assembly could pass a bill funding cooling centers for towns with no public building open during extreme heat. The governor could sign the bill and direct a state agency to review applications using that rule. If the agency denies a qualifying town's application, the town could challenge the denial in an Indiana court. The court could decide whether the agency followed the law and order it to reconsider if it did not. The court would not choose a building or manage the cooling center.

Accept other plausible funding and agency arrangements that preserve the distinct roles of lawmakers, the executive, and courts. For the open task, the eligibility rule must be clear enough to make the agency's decision disputable.