

# Power Has Jobs

Read how the three branches share the work of government.

**3.9.c** “identifying and describing the three branches of government;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the name of each branch, circle its main job, and number the branches 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear. This will help you match each branch to its work.

### Three Jobs, Shared Power

- ① The United States government has three branches. The branches share power so no one group makes every decision. The legislative branch includes Congress, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives. Its main job is to make laws. For example, members of Congress may discuss and vote on a law about safer playground equipment.
- ② The executive branch carries out laws. The president leads this branch. Many people in executive departments help the president do this work. After Congress passes a law, the president can sign it. Then workers in the executive branch may help put the law into action, such as by sharing safety rules with local schools and families.
- ③ The judicial branch explains what laws mean and decides whether laws follow the Constitution. The Supreme Court is the highest court in this branch. Other federal courts are also part of the judicial branch. If people disagree about whether a law is fair under the Constitution, courts can hear the case and make a decision.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

1 Which branch makes laws? Name the two parts of Congress in that branch.

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2 Who leads the executive branch? What can that person do after Congress passes a law?

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3 Which branch includes the Supreme Court? What can courts do when people disagree about a law?

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4 Why does the government have three branches?

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## 3 YOUR TURN \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine Congress passes a law that requires safer bike helmets. Write exactly three sentences. Tell what the legislative, executive, and judicial branches would each do with this law.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the name of each branch, circle its main job, and number the branches 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear. This will help you match each branch to its work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                      | ANSWER                                                                                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which branch makes laws? Name the two parts of Congress in that branch.                       | <b>The legislative branch makes laws. Congress includes the Senate and the House of Representatives.</b> |
| 2 | Who leads the executive branch? What can that person do after Congress passes a law?          | <b>The president leads the executive branch. The president can sign the law.</b>                         |
| 3 | Which branch includes the Supreme Court? What can courts do when people disagree about a law? | <b>The judicial branch includes the Supreme Court. Courts can hear the case and make a decision.</b>     |
| 4 | Why does the government have three branches?                                                  | <b>The branches share power so no one group makes every decision.</b>                                    |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The legislative branch makes the bike-helmet law. The executive branch carries out the law by sharing helmet rules with schools. The judicial branch can decide whether the law follows the Constitution if someone challenges it.

Accept accurate descriptions that match each branch to its main role. For the open response, all three branches should be named and described correctly in exactly three sentences.