BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

- Simple Present Tense
- Have / Has
- Can
- To Be

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

the legislative branch
the executive branch
the judicial branch

1. the Capitol
2. the Congress
3. the White House
4. the President and the Vice President
5. the Supreme Court
6. the Supreme Court justices
The government of the United States has three parts. These parts are called the three branches of government.

The names of the three branches of government are
the legislative branch,
the executive branch,
and the judicial branch.

The Congress is the legislative branch.
The President is in charge of the executive branch.
The courts are in the judicial branch.

There is a separation of powers between the branches of government.
This is a system of checks and balances.
It stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful.
Check-Up

Vocabulary Check

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>balances</th>
<th>branches</th>
<th>executive</th>
<th>government</th>
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1. The _______ government _______ of the United States has three parts.
2. There are three ______________________ of government in the United States.
3. The President is in the ______________________ branch of the government.
4. The Congress is the ______________________ branch.
5. The courts are in the ______________________ branch.
6. There is a separation of ______________________ between the branches of government.
7. A system of checks and ______________________ stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful.

Civics Check

Practice the questions and answers.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Name one branch or part of the government.</th>
<th>The legislative branch</th>
<th>The executive branch</th>
<th>The judicial branch</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Congress</td>
<td>Executive The President</td>
<td>Judicial The courts</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?</th>
<th>Checks and balances</th>
<th>Separation of powers</th>
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<tr>
<th>3. Who is in charge of the executive branch?</th>
<th>The President</th>
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</table>

* Some questions have more than one possible answer. Only one answer is required unless the question asks for more.

Discussion

Describe the government in your native country: Does the government have different parts, or branches? What are they called? Who works there? Who is in charge of the government? Where is the government located?
The legislative branch of the government is called the Congress. Senators and representatives are in the Congress. They make the laws of the United States. They work in the Capitol.* The Capitol is a building in Washington, D.C.

The President is in charge of the executive branch. The Vice President also works in the executive branch. They enforce the laws of the United States. The President lives and works in the White House. The White House is in Washington, D.C.

The Supreme Court justices work in the judicial branch. They explain the laws of the United States. They work in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is in Washington, D.C.

* The Capitol = the U.S. Capitol, the United States Capitol
Check-Up

Matching I

1. senators and representatives
2. the President and the Vice President
3. the Supreme Court justices

Matching II

1. the executive branch
2. the judicial branch
3. the legislative branch

Matching III

1. the Supreme Court
2. the White House
3. the Capitol

Answer These Questions

1. Who makes the laws of the United States?
2. Who explains the laws of the United States?
3. Who enforces the laws of the United States?

Discussion

1. Describe how the government works in your native country: Who makes the laws? Who are the leaders? Who works in the judicial branch? Is there a court like the Supreme Court? What are the names and locations of the important government buildings? (If you have pictures of these buildings, share them with the class.)
2. Discuss some U.S. laws you know about.
Grammar Check

Circle the correct answer.

1. The President ____________ in the White House.
   - live
   - lives

2. Senators ____________ in the Capitol.
   - work
   - works

3. The Vice President ____________ in the executive branch.
   - work
   - works

4. The Supreme Court justices ____________ the laws.
   - explain
   - explains

5. The President ____________ the laws.
   - enforce
   - enforces

6. The U.S. government ____________ three branches.
   - have
   - has

Questions and Answers

Practice the different ways to ask these questions. Then write the answers.

1. Which branch of the government makes the laws?
   - Which branch of the government does the Congress work in?

2. Which branch of the government explains the laws?
   - Which branch of the government does the Supreme Court work in?

3. Which branch of the government enforces the laws?
   - Which branch of the government does the President work in?

Listening

Listen and circle the correct answer.

1. White House    Capitol

2. White House    Capitol

3. Congress       Supreme Court

4. Congress       Supreme Court

5. senators      the President

6. senators      the President
Practice with other students. Take turns asking and answering the questions.

A. Now I’m going to ask you some civics questions.
B. All right.

A. Name one branch of the government.
B. Could you please repeat the question?
A. Can you name one part of the government?
B. Yes. ________________________________

A. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
B. The President.

A. And do you know what stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
B. I’m sorry. Could you say that one more time?
A. Something stops one branch of government from having more power than the other branches. Do you know what it is?
B. Yes. ________________________________

The legislative branch. The executive branch. The judicial branch.
Congress. The President. The courts.

Checks and balances. Separation of powers.

* Some questions have more than one possible answer. Only one answer is required unless the question asks for more.
A. CIVICS

Practice the questions and answers.*

1. Name one branch or part of the government.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The legislative branch</th>
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2. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

| Checks and balances | Separation of powers |

3. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

| The President |

* Some questions have more than one possible answer. Only one answer is required unless the question asks for more.

B. CIVICS MATCHING

Match the question and the correct answer.

1. Who works in the legislative branch?
   - a. The Supreme Court justices
   - b. The President and Vice President
   - c. Checks and balances
   - d. Senators and representatives

2. Who works in the judicial branch?

3. Who works in the executive branch?

4. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

C. GRAMMAR

Choose the correct answer.

1. The President ______ in charge of the executive branch.
   - is
   - are

2. Senators ______ in the Capitol.
   - work
   - works

3. The President ______ in the White House.
   - live
   - lives

4. The U.S. government ______ three branches.
   - has
   - have
D. KEY VOCABULARY

Write the correct word to complete the civics fact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Senators</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>White House</td>
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1. The ______________________ is in charge of the executive branch.
2. The ______________________ is the legislative branch of the government.
3. The Supreme Court is in ______________________.
4. The President lives in the ______________________.
5. ______________________ are in the Congress.
6. The Supreme Court explains the laws of the ______________________.

E. READING AND WRITING

Say the question. Then listen and write the sentence you hear.

1. Where does the Congress of the United States meet?

   CD Track x

2. Who lives in the White House?

   CD Track x

3. Where is the White House?

   CD Track x

4. Where do United States Senators meet?

   CD Track x

5. Where does the President live?

   CD Track x
Civics Enrichment

Field Trip Preparation: Prepare for a visit to the local office of your representative in the U.S. Congress. Practice conversations with other students so you are ready for the meeting: introduce yourselves, tell where you are from, tell about when and why you came to the United States, describe what you are learning in school, and tell about your plans for the future.

Discuss with other students: What problems or issues are important to you? What do you want to talk about when you visit your representative? What opinions do you want to share?

Visit your representative online! Go to www.house.gov/—the website of the U.S. House of Representatives. You can find your representative by name, by state, or by your zip code. Visit your representative’s website. What kind of information does it have?

UNIT SUMMARY

KEY VOCABULARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Writing</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Question Words</th>
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<td>Congress</td>
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<td>courts</td>
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<td>is</td>
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<td>explain the laws</td>
<td>Supreme Court justice</td>
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GRAMMAR

Simple Present Tense

They work in the Capitol. The President works in the White House.

Have/Has

The government has three branches.

FUNCTIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Apoloizing

I’m sorry.

Asking for Repetition

Could you please repeat the question? Could you say that one more time?