

# ***The Balance of Government***

## ***OUR GOVERNMENT'S SEESAW***



Pretend that three people who weigh the same take turns on a seesaw. No matter which two people are on the seesaw at opposite ends, they are balanced. Our government is the same way. The three that take turns riding the seesaw are -

- (1) Congress - Legislative Branch
- (2) President - Executive Branch
- (3) Supreme Court - Judicial Branch

**How do these branches balance and check each other?  
Each branch has different powers from another branch.  
But each weighs the same.**

**Using the lists below, fill in the seesaws on the next page to show how each branch balances the other.**

### **President:**

- Makes treaties with other nations
- Carries out laws
- Vetoes bills Congress passes if he thinks they are wrong
- Appoints judges in the Judicial Branch for a life term
- Writes the budget

### **Congress:**

- Makes laws
- Can override a President's veto of a bill by 2/3 vote
- Can impeach (fire) a President for misconduct
- Must approve presidential appointments for judges and justices
- Gives the O.K. on budget spending and treaties
- Can remove judges from office for misconduct

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## **Supreme Court:**

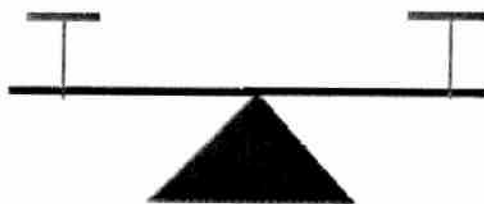
- Interprets laws
- May decide that some laws that Congress makes or decisions that the President make are not right according to the Constitution.

## *The Balance of Government*

Makes \_\_\_\_\_ with other countries. \_\_\_\_\_ treaties and budget.  
Carries out \_\_\_\_\_. Makes \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ bills he does not like. Overrides President's \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ vote.  
\_\_\_\_\_ the budget. Can \_\_\_\_\_ President for misconduct.

**EXECUTIVE**

**LEGISLATIVE**



Interprets \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ presidential appointments for  
Can prove laws to be against the \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Can \_\_\_\_\_ judges for misconduct.

**JUDICIAL**

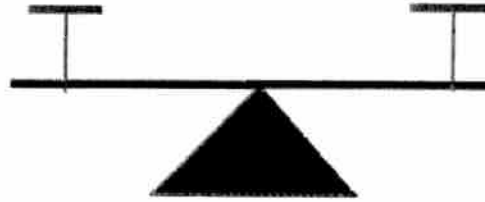
**LEGISLATIVE**



\_\_\_\_\_ judges for a \_\_\_\_\_ term. Can prove laws to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXECUTIVE**

**JUDICIAL**



FILL IN THE BLANKS USING THE INFORMATION ON THE FIRST PAGE