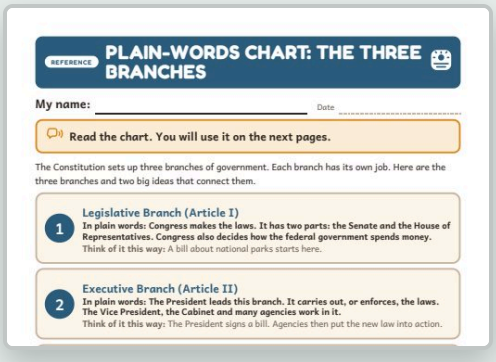
6TH–8TH · SOCIAL STUDIES

THREE BRANCHES

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

A plain-words chart, vocabulary match, match the official, checks and balances scenarios, true or false, a case study, writing organizers and cut-and-paste sorts. Keys, a tracker and a family page. Print, or type the answers. PDF.


REFERENCE PLAIN-WORDS CHART: THE THREE BRANCHES

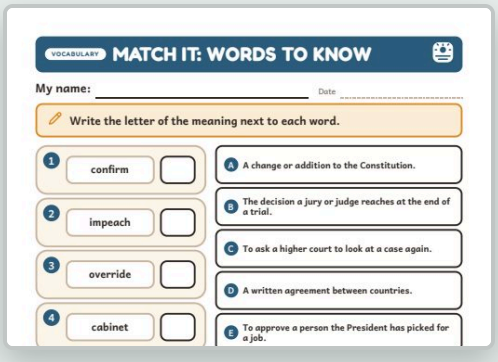
My name: _____ Date _____

Read the chart. You will use it on the next pages.

The Constitution sets up three branches of government. Each branch has its own job. Here are the three branches and two big ideas that connect them.

1 Legislative Branch (Article I)
In plain words: Congress makes the laws. It has two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress also decides how the federal government spends money.
Think of it this way: A bill about national parks starts here.

2 Executive Branch (Article II)
In plain words: The President leads this branch. It carries out, or enforces, the laws. The Vice President, the Cabinet and many agencies work in it.
Think of it this way: The President signs a bill. Agencies then put the new law into action.

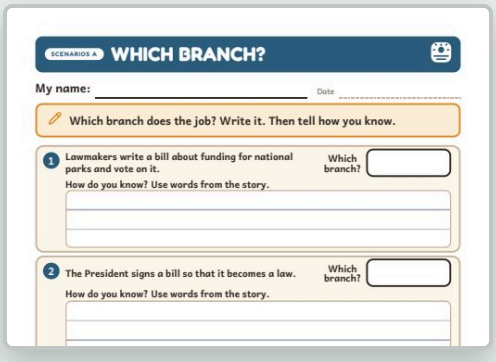

VOCABULARY MATCH IT: WORDS TO KNOW

My name: _____ Date _____

Write the letter of the meaning next to each word.

1 confirm ____
2 impeach ____
3 override ____
4 cabinet ____

A A change or addition to the Constitution.
B The decision a jury or judge reaches at the end of a trial.
C To ask a higher court to look at a case again.
D A written agreement between countries.
E To approve a person the President has picked for a job.

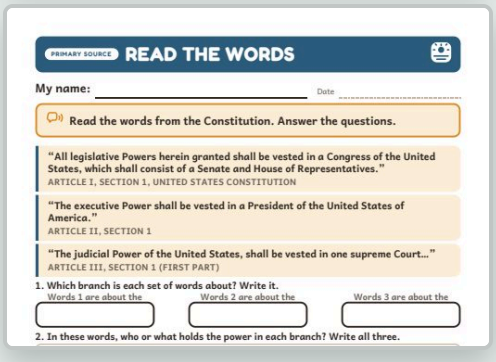

SCENARIOS A WHICH BRANCH?

My name: _____ Date _____

Which branch does the job? Write it. Then tell how you know.

1 Lawmakers write a bill about funding for national parks and vote on it. Which branch? ____
How do you know? Use words from the story.

2 The President signs a bill so that it becomes a law. Which branch? ____
How do you know? Use words from the story.


PRIMARY SOURCE READ THE WORDS

My name: _____ Date _____

Read the words from the Constitution. Answer the questions.

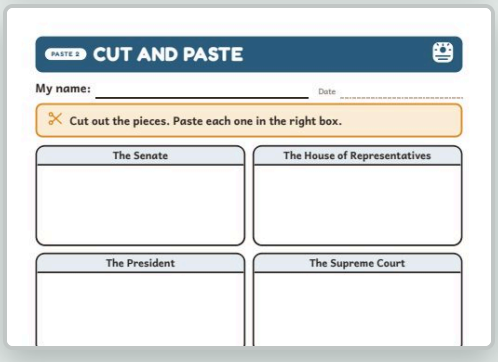
"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."
ARTICLE I, SECTION 1, UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."
ARTICLE II, SECTION 1

"The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court..."
ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 (FIRST PART)

1. Which branch is each set of words about? Write it.
Words 1 are about the ____ Words 2 are about the ____ Words 3 are about the ____

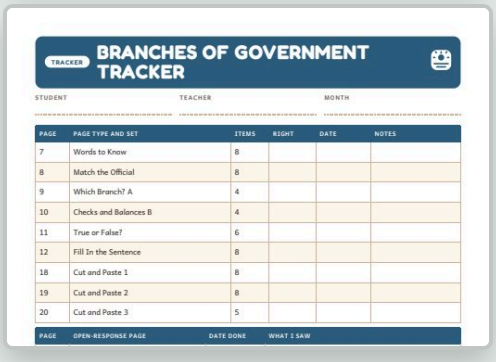
2. In these words, who or what holds the power in each branch? Write all three.


PASTE 2 CUT AND PASTE

My name: _____ Date _____

Cut out the pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

The Senate	The House of Representatives
The President	**The Supreme Court**


TRACKER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT TRACKER

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ MONTH _____

PAGE	PAGE TYPE AND SET	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
7	Words to Know	8			
8	Match the Official	8			
9	Which Branch? A	4			
10	Checks and Balances B	4			
11	True or False?	6			
12	Fill In the Sentence	8			
18	Cut and Paste 1	8			
19	Cut and Paste 2	8			
20	Cut and Paste 3	5			

PAGE	OPEN-RESPONSE PAGE	DATE DONE	WHAT I SAW

32 Pages | **12 Page Types** | **59 Items** | **16 Scenarios**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

START HERE

QUICK START

1 Start with the two charts

Pages 5 and 6 show the three branches and five checks and balances in plain words. Read them aloud together and keep them on the desk; most pages ask the student to look something up.

2 Hand over a page

Every student page opens with a name line and one short instruction, with room to write. Nothing on it is written for an adult. The chooser below says which page for which job.

3 Check, then record

Answer keys are on pages 21 to 23. Record scores on the tracker (page 24) and the open-response pages by what you see, using the look-fors on page 23.

WHICH PAGE FOR WHICH JOB

WHEN YOU WANT TO...	USE	PAGES
Introduce the unit	Plain-Words Chart, Match It	5, 6, 7
Check what they remember	Match the Official, True or False, Fill In	8, 11, 12
Apply it to real situations	Which Branch?, Checks and Balances, Case Study	9, 10, 14
Read and write	Read the Words, Explain It, Build a Paragraph, Snapshot	13, 15, 16, 17
A hands-on sort	Cut and Paste, three mats	18, 19, 20
Record and report	Tracker, class grid, team note, family page	24, 25, 26, 27

Everything inside (32 pages)

- **16 student pages** in 12 page types, 59 scored items
- **16 scenarios** to sort by branch, plus an invented case study
- **21 cut-and-paste pieces** on 3 sort mats
- **3 answer keys**, a tracker, a class grid, a team note, a family page
- A filled example, a phrase bank, a binder cover and divider tabs

Your standards, your words

These are textbook-level summaries for classroom use, not legal advice. Every scenario and the case study are invented. Write the standard or the district's wording you want students to see on the line on the tracker (page 24).

REFERENCE

PLAIN-WORDS CHART: THE THREE BRANCHES

My name: _____ Date .....

Read the chart. You will use it on the next pages.

The Constitution sets up three branches of government. Each branch has its own job. Here are the three branches and two big ideas that connect them.

1

Legislative Branch (Article I)

In plain words: Congress makes the laws. It has two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress also decides how the federal government spends money.

Think of it this way: A bill about national parks starts here.

2

Executive Branch (Article II)

In plain words: The President leads this branch. It carries out, or enforces, the laws. The Vice President, the Cabinet and many agencies work in it.

Think of it this way: The President signs a bill. Agencies then put the new law into action.

3

Judicial Branch (Article III)

In plain words: The courts explain the laws and decide cases. The Supreme Court is the highest court. Other federal courts are below it.

Think of it this way: A judge hears both sides of a dispute and rules on it.

4

Separation of Powers

In plain words: The Constitution splits the government's power into three branches, so that no one person or group holds all of it.

Think of it this way: Write the rules, carry out the rules, judge the rules: three jobs, three branches.

5

Checks and Balances

In plain words: Each branch has some powers over the other two. That way, each branch can limit the others.

Think of it this way: A branch that goes too far can be stopped by another branch.

VOCABULARY

MATCH IT: WORDS TO KNOW

My name: _____ Date .....

Write the letter of the meaning next to each word.

1	confirm		A change or addition to the Constitution.
2	impeach		B The decision a jury or judge reaches at the end of a trial.
3	override		C To ask a higher court to look at a case again.
4	cabinet		D A written agreement between countries.
5	veto		E To approve a person the President has picked for a job.
6	appeal		F The group of top advisers who lead major departments under the President.
7	treaty		G The President's power to say no to a plan for a new law.
8	bill		H A plan for a new law that has not been voted on yet.
			I To bring formal charges against a government official.
			J A vote by two-thirds of Congress that makes a law even after the President says no.

Two of the meanings are not used.

SCENARIOS A

WHICH BRANCH?

My name: _____ Date .....

Which branch does the job? Write it. Then tell how you know.

1 **Lawmakers write a bill about funding for national parks and vote on it.**

Which branch?

How do you know? Use words from the story.

2 **The President signs a bill so that it becomes a law.**

Which branch?

How do you know? Use words from the story.

3 **A federal judge hears both sides of a dispute and rules on it.**

Which branch?

How do you know? Use words from the story.

4 **An agency that works for the President starts putting a new law into action.**

Which branch?

How do you know? Use words from the story.

PRIMARY SOURCE

READ THE WORDS

My name: _____ Date .....

Read the words from the Constitution. Answer the questions.

> **"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."**
> ARTICLE I, SECTION 1, UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

> **"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."**
> ARTICLE II, SECTION 1

> **"The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court…"**
> ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 (FIRST PART)

1. Which branch is each set of words about? Write it.

Words 1 are about the _____

Words 2 are about the _____

Words 3 are about the _____

2. In these words, who or what holds the power in each branch? Write all three.

3. The word vested here means given to or placed in. Say the first sentence of Article II in your own words.

4. Why might the writers have put each power in a different group? Use a clue from the words above.

PASTE 2 CUT AND PASTE

My name: _____ Date .....

Cut out the pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

The Senate	The House of Representatives

The President	The Supreme Court

Cut on the dashed lines.

Can veto a bill	Votes to bring charges against an official	Holds the trial of an impeached official	Members serve two-year terms
Rules on whether a law fits the Constitution	Votes to confirm judges	The highest court in the country	Picks federal judges

TRACKER

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT TRACKER

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ MONTH _____

PAGE	PAGE TYPE AND SET	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
7	Words to Know	8			
8	Match the Official	8			
9	Which Branch? A	4			
10	Checks and Balances B	4			
11	True or False?	6			
12	Fill In the Sentence	8			
18	Cut and Paste 1	8			
19	Cut and Paste 2	8			
20	Cut and Paste 3	5			

PAGE	OPEN-RESPONSE PAGE	DATE DONE	WHAT I SAW
13	Read the Words		
14	Case Study		
15	Explain It		
16	Build a Paragraph		
17	Branch Snapshot		

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 59 items on the 9 scored pages. The charts (pages 5 and 6) are not scored. Answer keys: pages 21 to 23. Filled example: page 28.

THIS MONTH WE ARE WORKING ON (YOUR OWN STANDARD OR WORDING)

EXAMPLE LENA'S TRACKER

Lena R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 24.

STUDENT **Lena R. (an invented student)**

TEACHER **Ms. Odom (invented)**

MONTH **October**

PAGE	PAGE TYPE AND SET	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
7	Words to Know	8	6	10/1	Mixed up two meanings
8	Match the Official	8	8	10/2	–
9	Which Branch? A	4	3	10/6	Needed a prompt on one item
10	Checks and Balances B	4	4	10/7	–
11	True or False?	6	5	10/8	Missed one false sentence
12	Fill In the Sentence	8	7	10/9	Needed a prompt on one item
18	Cut and Paste 1	8	8	10/3	–
19	Cut and Paste 2	8	–	–	–
20	Cut and Paste 3	5	–	–	–

How to read it

Lena R. has done **7 of 9** scored pages and got **41 of 46** items right with no prompt. **3** pages were all right and **4** carry a note. Every number here comes from the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This month Lena finished 7 pages and got 41 of 46 items right. Lena is solid on matching officials to their branches and on the cut-and-paste sort; the next thing to practice is saying which words in a story point to a branch." — every number in it is a row of the table above.

What the table points to

4 pages carry a note and each is short of full. The pages left blank (2 of them) are not tried yet, never wrong.

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Everything here was built for the teacher who has a table of students who each need a different amount of support learning and explaining what they learn. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Everything inside, one more time

- **16 student pages** in 12 page types, 59 scored items, every answer computed in code from the lists on the page.
- **21 cut-and-paste pieces** on 3 sort mats, **3 answer keys**.
- **1 tracker, 1 class grid, 1 team note, 1 family page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank** (17 starters), **1 binder cover** and divider tabs.

How this file avoids guessing

Wherever a student picks among printed spots — the lettered meanings, the box of words, the order of the pieces on the cut strip — the position of the right answer is checked in code so it never sits in the same spot three times in a row.

No real student anywhere in this file

The filled example on page 28 names "Lena R.," an invented student used only to show how the tracker fills in. Every scenario and the case study are invented, and nothing here is legal advice. Once you fill in a real student's name, the tracker, class grid and team note (pages 24, 25 and 26) do carry real information — keep completed pages secure the same way you would any other record.

Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

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For the same students: transition and career readiness, plus a civics-adjacent K-2 set.



Student Transition Career Readiness Portfolio
A career readiness portfolio for students in transition.



Transition and Life Skills Data Sheets Bundle
Vocational, career and daily-living data sheets.



Community Helpers Worksheets K-2
Match, who am I, and a cut-and-paste sort for K-2.

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