Basic US History

Unit 3 - The Constitution and Voting

The Balance of Government - Out Government’s Seesaw

The three branches of our government, the Legislative Branch, Executive, and Judicial Branches – each have powers that make them equally powerful. They’re like three people who weigh the same taking turns on a seesaw - no matter which two are on the seesaw at opposite ends, they always stay balanced.

Using the information below, fill in the seesaws to show how each branch balances the other.

**Executive Branch (the President):**

Makes treaties with other countries

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

**Legislative Branch (Congress – House of Representatives and Senate):**

Makes laws

Can override a President's veto of a bill by 2/3 vote

Can impeach a President and judges for misconduct

Must approve presidential appointments for judges and justices

Must approve budget spending and treaties

**Judicial Branch (the Supreme Court and lesser courts):**

Interprets laws

Decides if laws that Congress makes are Constitutional

Decides if decisions that the President makes are Constitutional

Makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with other countries.

Carries out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bills he does not like.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the budget.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treaties and budget.

Makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Overrides President's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote.

Can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the President for misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Which branch is this?) (Which branch is this?)



Interprets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Decides if laws are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ presidential appointments for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ judges for misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Which branch is this?) (Which branch is this?)



\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ judges for a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term.

Decides if presidential actions are

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Which branch is this?) (Which branch is this?)

