

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

The U.S. Constitution sets out the ideas by which our country is governed. The writers of the Constitution wanted to create a strong government. But they also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have *too much* power! That's why they created three branches, or main parts, of government.

Read the chart to learn about the three branches of government. Then answer the questions.

Legislative Branch



The U.S. Capitol

Congress is made up of senators and representatives.

Executive Branch



The White House

The executive branch includes the President, Vice President and the Cabinet members.

Judicial Branch



The Supreme Court

Nine judges serve on the Supreme Court.

1. What are the three parts, or branches, of our national government?

2. Senators and representatives write and vote on bills that may become laws. These lawmakers belong to which branch of government?

3. In what building do Congress members meet and work?

4. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. The judges make sure that laws agree with the U.S. Constitution. How many judges are on the Supreme Court?



There are two senators for each state in the country. The number of representatives is based on the number of people who live in the state. Do you think this system is fair? Why or why not?