CE 6a: National Government Structure

The **U.S. Constitution** gives the power and framework to the national government.

The powers and responsibilities of the national government are distributed among 3 branches: executive branch, judicial branch, and the legislative branch. Each branch is independent of each other.



The *legislative branch* has several responsibilities. The most important one is ***making the laws***for the country*.*  They also approve the *annual budget, confirm presidential appointments, regulate interstate and foreign trade,* and *declare war*.

The legislative branch is run by Congress. Congress has 2 houses (bicameral); the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The *executive branch* has the primary responsibility to execute (carry out) the laws of the country. This branch is headed by the President of the United States. The executive branch also *prepares the annual budget, appoints ambassadors and cabinet officials, and administers the federal bureaucracy.* What is the federal bureaucracy?It is all the people that work for a government that do the day to day tasks. They work for the government because it’s a job, they were not elected.

Office managers, clerks, and secretaries are some examples.

The *judicial branch* has the job of interpreting the law. The branch is headed by the Supreme Court which performs “judicial review”. ***Judicial Review*** checks a law to make sure it is in agreement with the U.S. Constitution. If a law is not valid according to the Constitution, then it is thrown out. Federal courts are responsible for cases that involve a violation of federal law.

What do you know?

1. The executive branch:
2. Carries out the law b) performs judicial review c) makes laws
3. Which is not a fact about the legislative branch?
4. Makes laws b) approves annual budget c) vetoes laws
5. The judicial branch performs judicial review and is headed by the?
6. Congress b) Supreme Court c) ambassadors