

Directions: This diagram shows the basic powers and checks & balances on those powers granted in the US Constitution to each branch of the Federal government. In the spaces provided find the Article, Section, and relevant quote which grants each power (or check on power) For powers NOT granted in the Constitution, research these and figure out when/how that power arose.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – CONGRESS (House of Representatives & Senate)

- Write the laws _____

- Confirms presidential appointees _____

- Ratifies treaties _____

- Appropriates money _____

- * May reject presidential appointments or treaties _____

- * May impeach a president _____

- * May override a veto _____

- * May propose Constitutional amendments to override judicial decision _____

- * May reject presidential judicial appointments _____

- * May impeach Supreme Court Judges _____

- * May veto a bill _____

- * May appeal to the public to put political pressure on legislators (use the bully pulpit) _____

- * Vice President votes in Senate in cases of tied vote _____

* May declare legislation unconstitutional _____

EXECUTIVE BRANCH (President, VP, Cabinet)

- Administers/enforces the laws _____

- Appoints Ambassadors, Judges, Cabinet members & other officials _____

- Negotiates treaties _____
- Conducts foreign policy _____
- Proposes laws _____
- Commands armed forces _____

* Appoints judges _____

JUDICIAL BRANCH (Supreme Court, and other federal courts)

- Interprets laws as constitutional or unconstitutional _____

- Reviews court decisions _____

* May declare executive actions unconstitutional _____

