

18 day
lesson
plan

Branches of Government for Middle & High School For Special Education

Preview



By Christa Joy



Branches of Government Lesson Plan for High School

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Books
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
 - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make one set for each student and **also** one for the teacher to use in I Spy games

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. **Make your own copies of the activities:** Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
 - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards intro • Circle map 	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Matching activity 	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Circle map 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Check and balances activity 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Circle map 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Check and balances activity 	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Flow chart 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Sequencing activity 	18	• Assessment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Flow chart 	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards • Cut and paste • Sudoku puzzle 		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Flow chart 	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cut and paste • Word search 		
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Matching activity 	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet 		

Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • book • Vocabulary board
Vocabulary cards I Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I play this game, or variations of it the first few days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Determine how many cards your students can handle in front of them. This can vary, some students may be able to have all the cards, so may only be able to handle a field of 3-5 • Since this is the first time playing this game, I make it easy. Hold up a card, and have students find the matching one and hold it up • Discuss relevant points on the card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You can also play this game in this manner having them find the symbol on their vocabulary board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary cards (student set and teacher set) • Vocabulary board
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the worksheet completed yesterday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet completed yesterday
Circle map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the circle map on the Legislative Branch • Choose the best version depending on the learning level of your students (see worksheet directions for more details) • Add color coding if needed • Students complete the worksheet • Make connections to the book as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet • Scissors • Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student shares their finished worksheet with the group using the communication method of their choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed worksheets • Communication devices

The **President** is the leader of the executive branch and holds all of the power. He is also the **commander in chief**, the leader of all of our military forces.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

59 page book on the Branches

The **Executive Office of the President (EOP)** is another part of the executive branch. The EOP is made up of mainly the White House staff and helps to keep things running smoothly.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

The **Department of Justice** is led by the Attorney General and is responsible for enforcing the law and making sure everyone is safe. With the help of the FBI and US Marshalls, it oversees the entire justice system.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

The **Senate** is made up of 100 members, two from every state. Each Senator is elected for a 6 year term, and like the Representatives, can be re-elected over and over again.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

The **Supreme Court** mainly hears very important cases that come from lower courts. One thing the Supreme court looks at in these cases is whether or not the **Judicial Process** was followed.

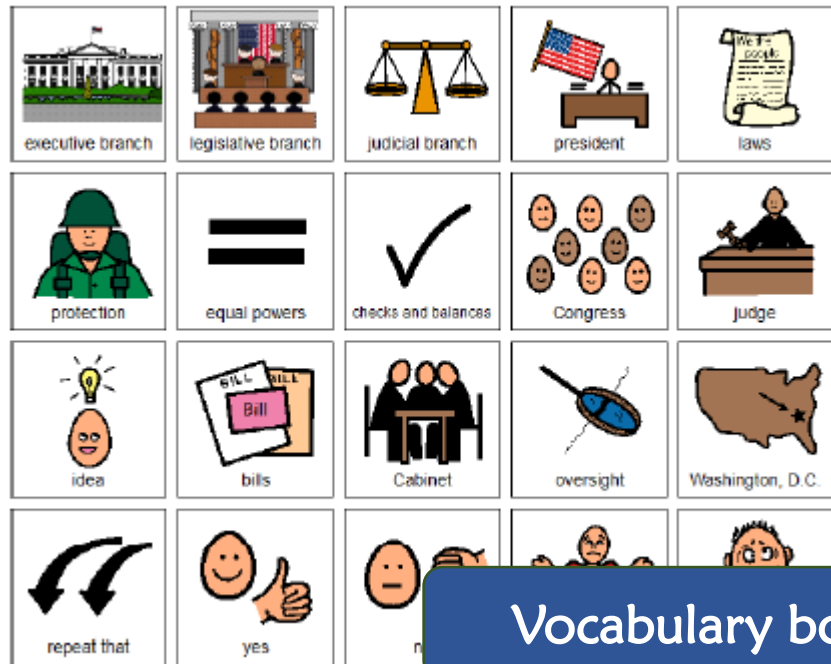


Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

Another check in place is Congress's ability to **impeach** the President. If Congress feels the President is doing something wrong, they can vote to remove the President from office.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids



Vocabulary board



government oversight

Part of the legislative branch to make sure people are doing their jobs.



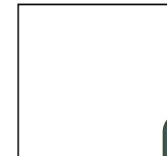
supreme court

Part of the Judicial branch. The highest court in the US.



justices

Judge. Usually refers to a judge on the Supreme Court.



Judicial process

Outlined in the Constitution, telling how someone should be treated if accused of a crime.



Cut & paste

executive branch

Branch of government led by the president. Also includes the Vice President and people who help the President make decisions.



legislative branch

Branch of government that writes laws. It is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate.



judicial branch

Branch that interprets the law and is made up of the Supreme court and federal judges.



President

Leader of the country and the military. Also the leader of the executive branch.



28 vocab cards

Separation of Powers

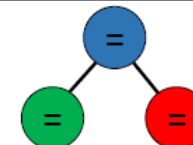
Responsible for educating all students.

Power of the President to forgive a person of a crime.

The steps how an idea becomes a bill and then becomes a law.

Leader of the country and the military. Also the leader of the executive branch.

Part of legislative branch. Each state elects representatives based on how many people live in the state.



impeach



unconstitutional



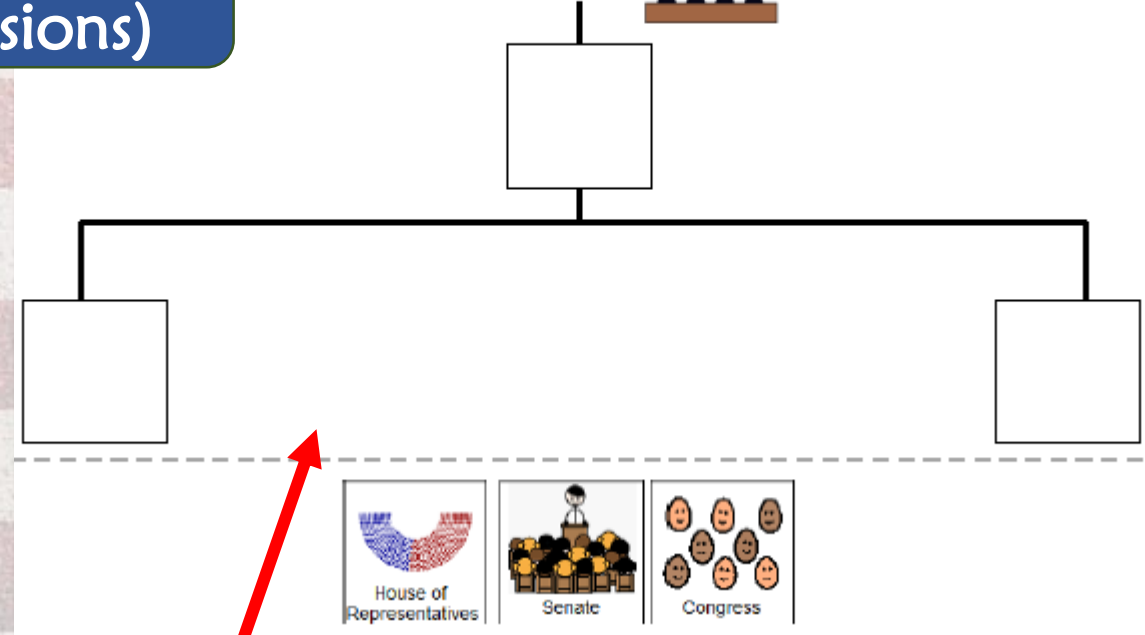
sponsor



3 Circle maps

Each branch
(2 versions)

Legislative Branch



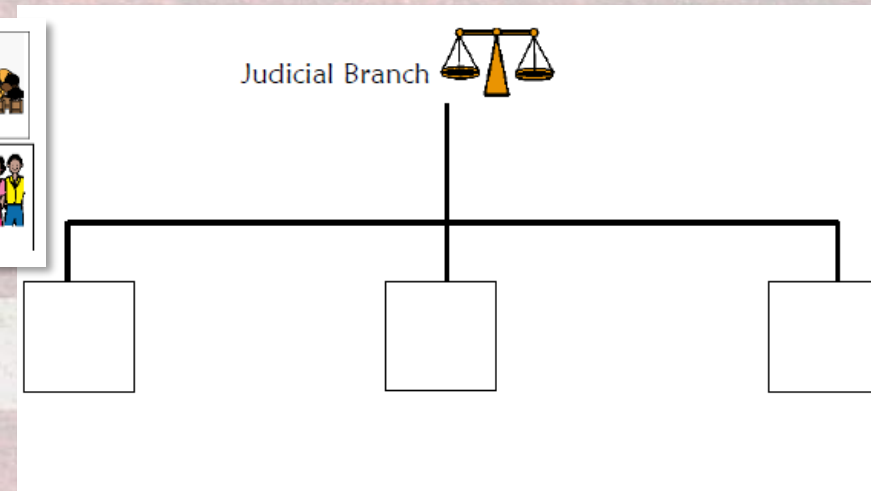
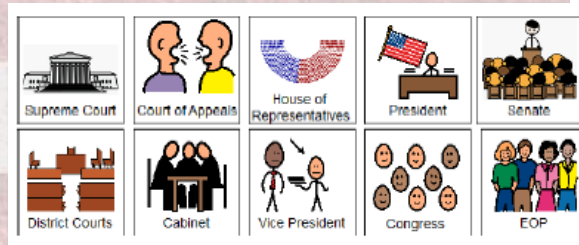
executive
branch






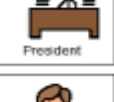

Errorless versions


















Judicial Branch












Match the correct branch of government with each job or responsibility listed.




	
Speaker of the House	
	
Vice President	
	
Representative	
	
President	
	
Senator	

				
executive branch	executive branch	executive branch	executive branch	executive branch
				
legislative branch	legislative branch	legislative branch	legislative branch	legislative branch
				
Judicial branch	Judicial branch	Judicial branch	Judicial branch	Judicial branch

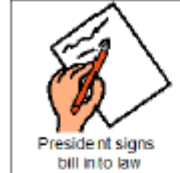


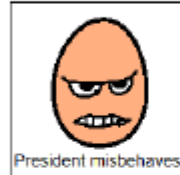


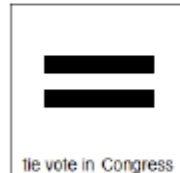


Checks and Balances




Find the correct pictures to show how each action by one branch is checked by an action of another branch.

	 	
Congress passes Bill		
	 	
President vetoes bill		
	 	
President chooses justice		

		
Congress approves justice	Congress can overturn with 2/3 vote	President signs bill into law

Find the correct pictures to show how each action by one branch is checked by an action of another branch.

	 	
President signs bill into law		
	 	
President misbehaves		
	 	
Tie vote in Congress		

		
Supreme Court says unconstitutional	Vice President votes	Congress can impeach

17 page book on Legislative Process

It all starts with an idea. A Senator may have idea, a Representative may have an idea, any citizen (even you!) can have an idea.



When an idea is sponsored, it is written up into a bill to be presented to Congress. A Senator or Representative must strongly believe in this idea to sponsor it.

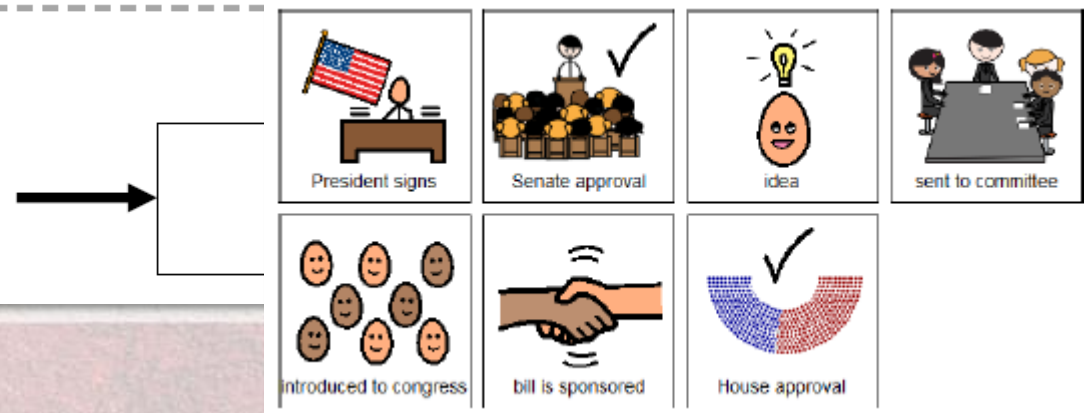
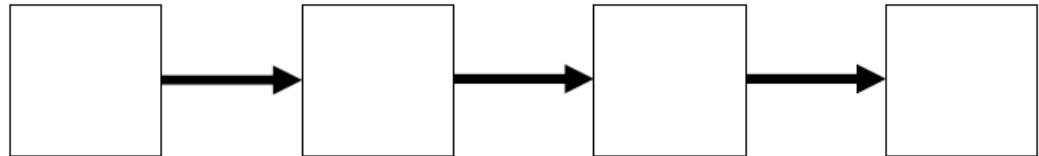


If the majority of the members of Congress vote to pass the bill in both the House and the Senate, it will go to the President for final approval.



Sequencing worksheet

How a Bill Becomes a Law



Branches of Government

Z	C	N	N	W	P	B	I	L	L	P	S
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	I	B	O	L	J
H	Q	S	U	N	I	M	P	E	A	C	H
C	N	P	N	T	D	V	M	T	O	S	W
O	L	O	G	V	X	D	L	F	J	E	I
X	H	N	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	I
Y	O	S	C	A	B	I	N	E	T	C	L
E	C	O	N	G	R	E	S	S	D	A	A
H	J	R	M	K	Z	A	U	N	B	Y	K
J	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	J	R
Q	Y	L	N	H	R	H	R	A	V	K	V
T	S	J	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E
V	R	K	K	Q	C	S	Z	Y	U	K	T
M	P	F	E	O	O	M	C	X	G	Y	O
U	N	N	Z	G	F	U	J	A	E	X	L

EXECUTIVE
PRESIDENT
CABINET
JUSTICE
LAW

LEGISLATIVE
VETO
SENATE
IMPEACH
BILL

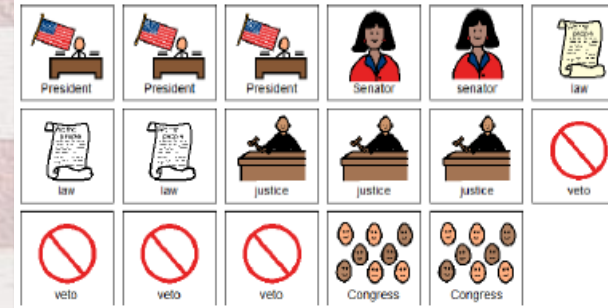
JUDICIAL
PARDON
CONGRESS
SPONSOR

Word search

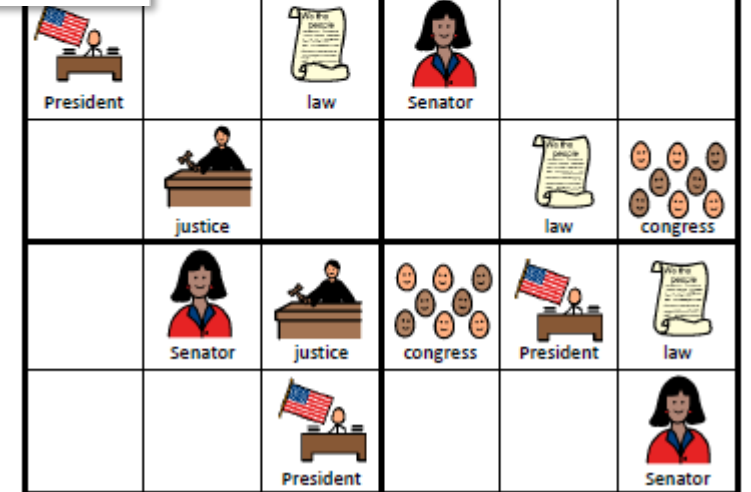
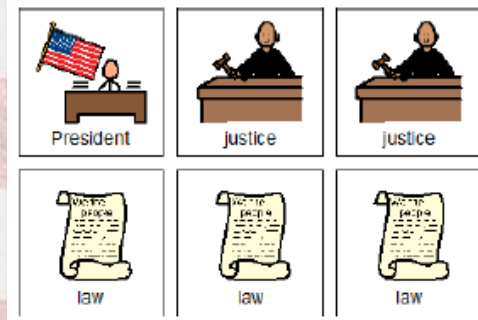
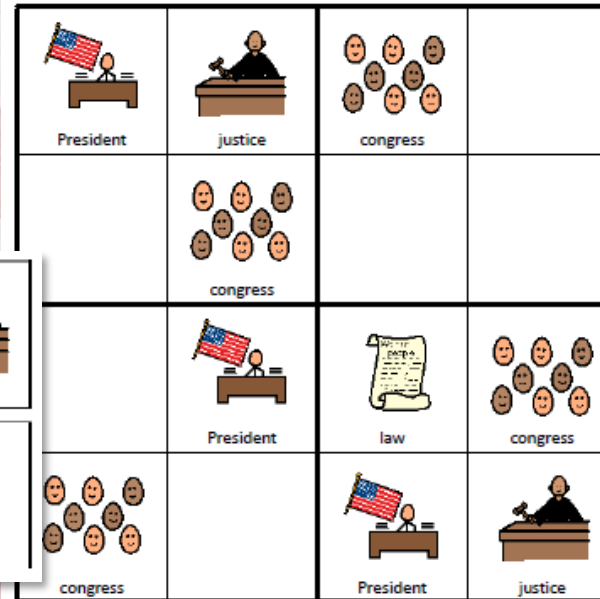
Sudoku Puzzles

*Answer Keys
included*

Branches of Government



Branches of Government



4 Close worksheets

Executive Branch

1. The is the head of the Executive branch.

2. Once Congress passes a bill, the President can sign it or .

3. The President can people who were accused of a crime.

4. The is the main advisor to the President.

5. The Press Secretary tells the what is going on in the White House.

Executive branch (page 1)



Version 1

1. All three branches of government have powers that are:



2. Which branch can declare war?



3. The Commander in Chief, in charge of the military, is also the:



4. The legislative process is how a bill becomes a:



5. In order for an idea to become a bill, someone in Congress needs to:



Assessments 3 versions

Version 2

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5



Version 3 or it

7. This is the highest court in the United States:

- A. Supreme Court
- B. President
- C. Senator

8. The Court can overturn a law if it is:

- A. unconstitutional
- B. wrong
- C. flipped

9. Who can impeach a judge or the President if they are not doing their job:

- A. Vice President
- B. justice
- C. congress

10. True or False. The system of checks and balances makes sure each branch does not become too powerful.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. I don't know