

**For
Special
Ed**

Branches of Government for HS

With Digital Activities

Special Needs for Special Kids





This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, struggles with attention AND he is able to do this unit. He is my tester!!

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This unit contains over 200 pages of material, but don't worry I have detailed lesson plans to show you how to make this last 18 days or more.

Everything highlighted in yellow comes with a digital version of the activity.

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

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching
students with significant
needs

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day.

Day 3

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 see description on day 2• Today, try to give clues about the card your student needs to find<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Read definition◦ Show real photo that relates to card from book◦ Describe the picture• 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 circle map 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 Judicial 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 lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run.

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

Next, the **Department of Defense** is the largest of the departments. It is in charge of all the military, keeping our country safe.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

This unit contains a 57 page book. It has simple text and engaging photos. I encourage teachers to start EVERY lesson with this book.

It comes in a pdf and a voice recorded version so you don't have to print it out.

A member of Congress, either a Senator or Representative, will then take that idea and **sponsor** it.



The committee has the power to change to the bill if they feel it is necessary. Once satisfied with the final draft, it is time for **approval**.

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

This unit also contains a 17 page book on how a bill becomes a law.

It comes in a pdf and a voice recorded version so you don't have to print it out.

The Vice President often helps the President make important decisions and will travel to other countries to represent the United States.



Play (k)

3:11 / 14:41

Needs for Special Kids

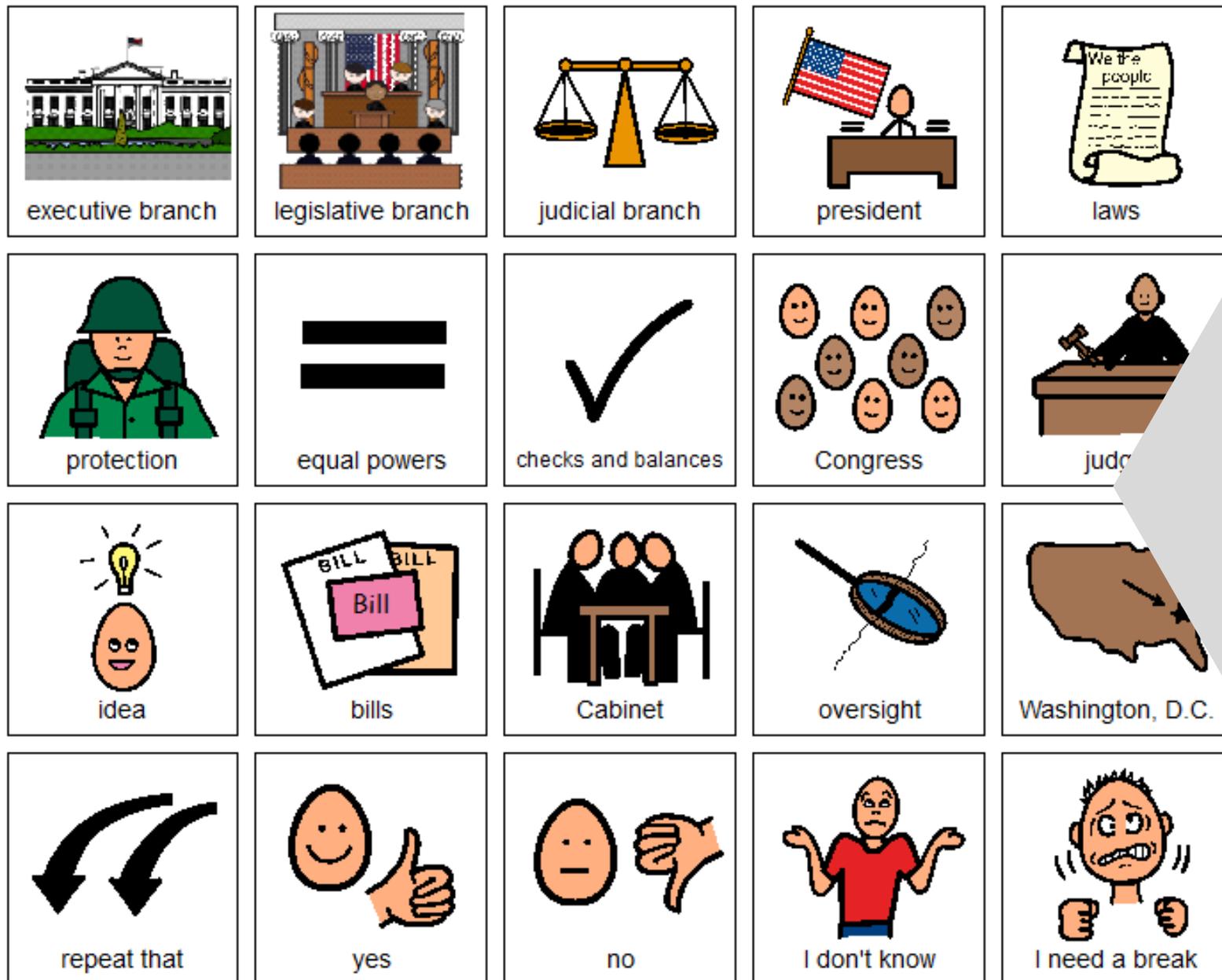


There is an mp4 version of both books which you can play in google or assign for students to watch and listen to in google classroom.

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



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.



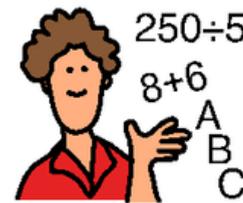
Department of Defense

Largest department, responsible for keeping our country safe.



Department of Education

Responsible for educating all students.



Department of Homeland Security

Responsible for protecting our country from terrorism.



Department of Justice

Responsible for making sure the law is enforced. Includes the FBI and US Marshalls.

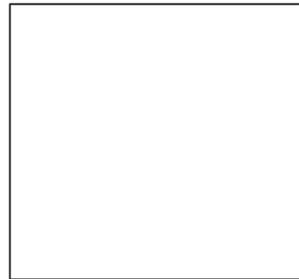


This unit comes with 28 vocabulary cards.

Every day students will do a group activity using these cards to get more familiar with words that are likely new to them.

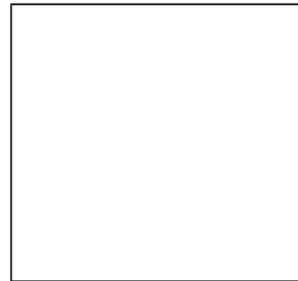
Executive Office of the President (EOP)

Part of the executive branch. Made up of the White House Staff and keep things running smoothly.



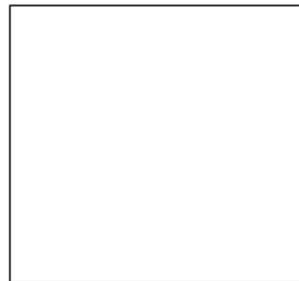
Press Secretary

Person in the EOP who is responsible for communicating with the press and general public.



Cabinet

Part of the executive branch. Made up of the heads of 15 big departments that help advise the President.

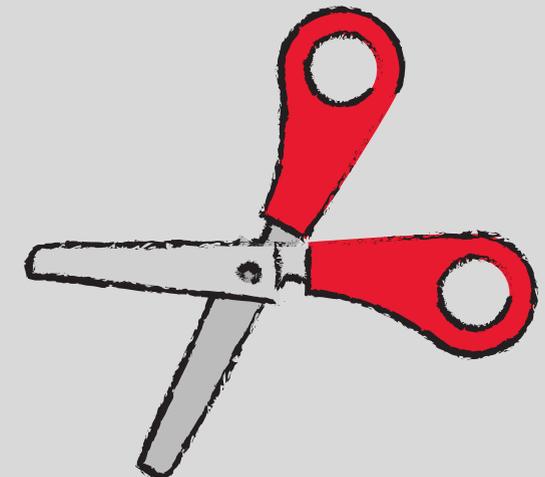


Department of Agriculture

Responsible for keeping our food safe and protects the land for farming.



Students will also test their knowledge of these new words and symbols with a cut and paste activity on days 12&13.



commander in chief



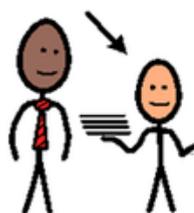
veto



pardon



Vice President



h of government th
is made up of the
Representatives and th

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

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

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

Person in the EOP who is responsible for communicating with the press and general public.

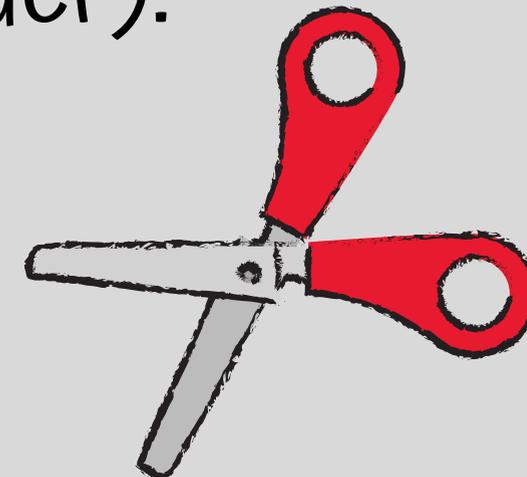
Leader of the country and the military. Also the leader of the executive branch.

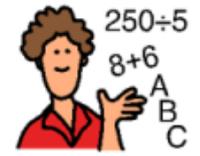
Part of the Judicial branch. The highest court in the US.

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

Largest department, responsible for keeping our country safe.

You have 2 choices:
1. Students match the picture to the definition (easier).
2. Students match the definition to the picture (harder).



<p>Executive Office of the President (EOP)</p> 	<p>Press Secretary</p> 	<p>Department of Defense</p> 	<p>Department of Education</p> 
<p>Cabinet</p> 	<p>Department of Agriculture</p> 	<p>Department of Homeland Security</p> 	<p>Department of Justice</p> 

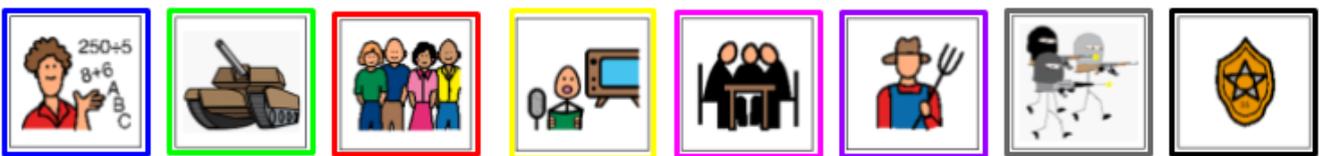
Match the picture to the definition.

Responsible for keeping our food safe and protects the land for farming.	Responsible for educating all students.	Part of the executive branch. Made up of the heads of 15 big departments that help advise the President.	Responsible for making the law is enforced. Includes the FBI and US Marshals.
Responsible for protecting our country from terrorism.	Person in the EOP who is responsible for communicating with the press and general public.	Largest department, responsible for keeping our country safe.	Part of the executive branch. Made up of the White House Staff and keep things running smoothly.

There are digital versions of the vocabulary matching activities. Both versions (matching the pictures and matching the definitions) are included.

<p>Executive Office of the President (EOP) Part of the executive branch. Made up of the White House Staff and keep things running smoothly.</p> 	<p>Press Secretary Person in the EOP who is responsible for communicating with the press and general public.</p> 	<p>Department of Defense Largest department. responsible for keeping our country safe.</p> 	<p>Department of Education Responsible for educating all students.</p> 
<p>Cabinet Part of the executive branch. Made up of the heads of 15 big departments that help advise the President.</p> 	<p>Department of Agriculture Responsible for keeping our food safe and protects the land for farming.</p> 	<p>Department of Homeland Security Responsible for protecting our country from terrorism.</p> 	<p>Department of Justice Responsible for making sure the law is enforced. Includes the FBI and Marshalls.</p> 

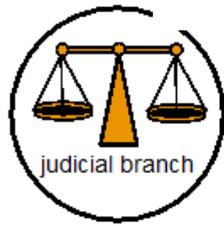
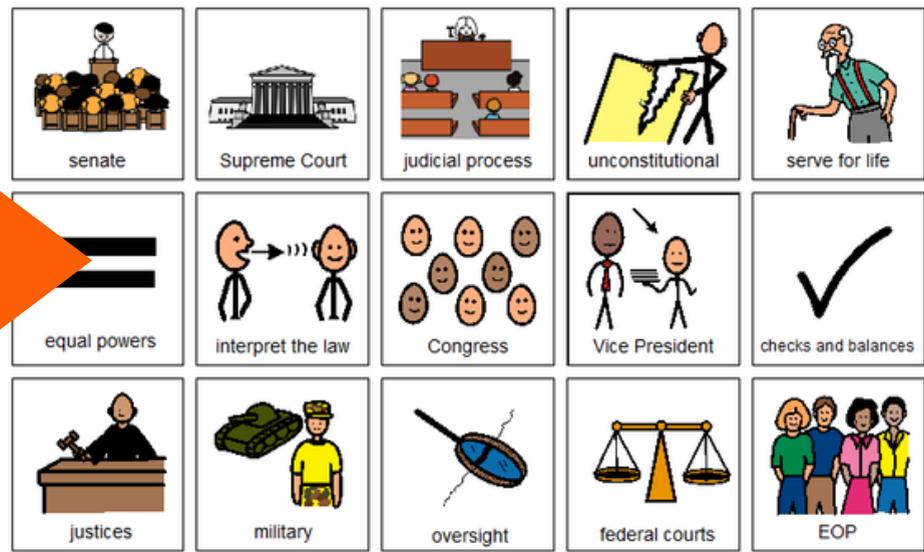
Match the picture to the definition.



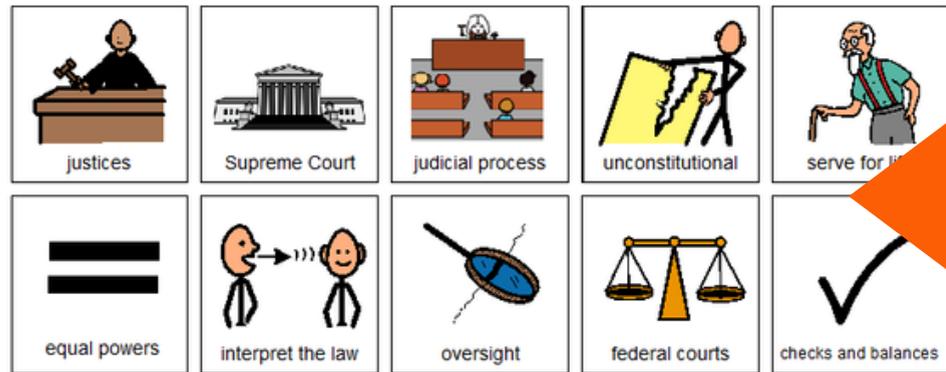
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The differentiated versions include color coding so more students can complete these worksheets independently.

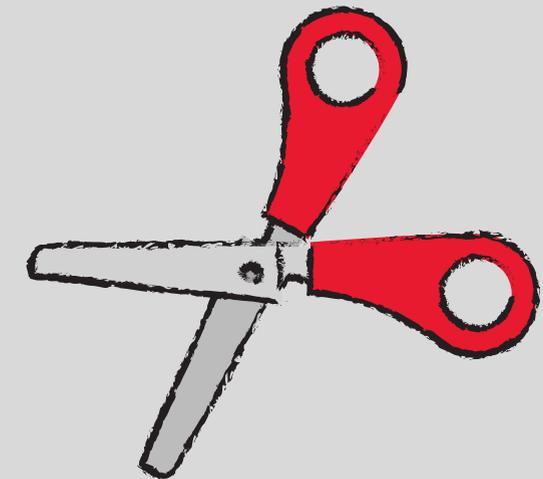
wrong answers
mixed in



errorless



There are 2 circle maps in this unit. Each has a version that is errorless and one that has wrong answers mixed in that students will set aside.



Day 2
differentiated

Place pictures in circle map about the legislative branch.

House of Representatives

Senate

Speaker of the House

legislative process

equal powers

sponsor

oversight

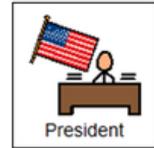
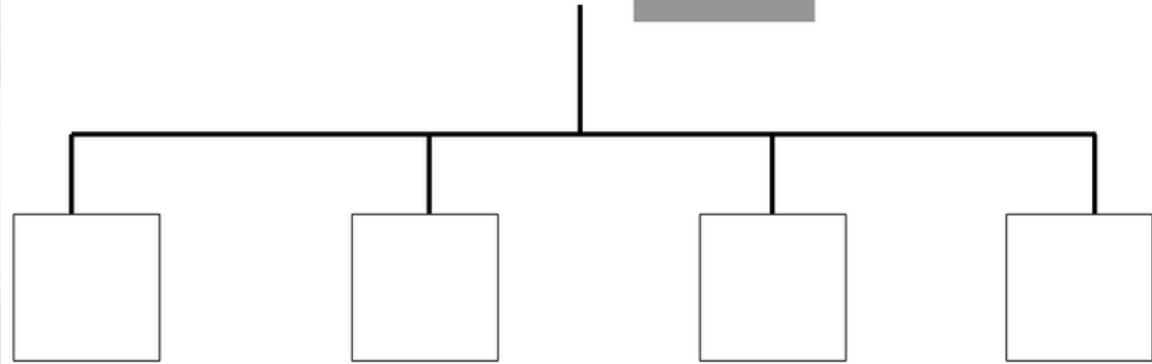
Congress

legislative branch

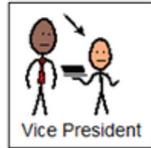
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There is a drag and drop version of the circle maps in this unit. The differentiated versions contains only correct answers.

Executive Branch



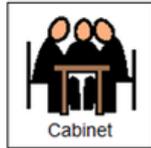
President



Vice President

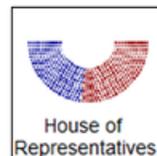
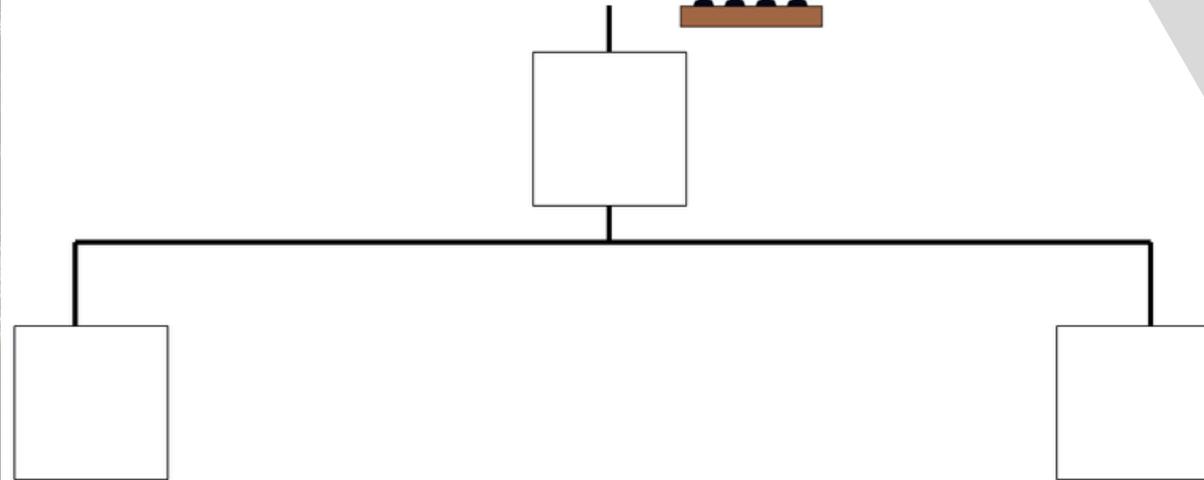


E.O.

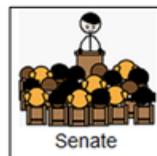


Cabinet

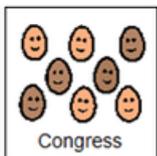
Legislative Branch



House of Representatives

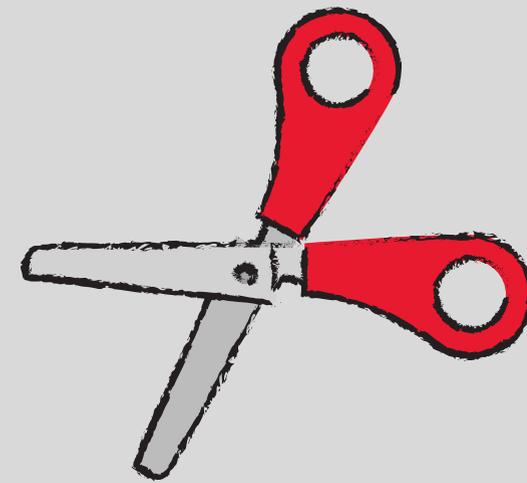


Senate

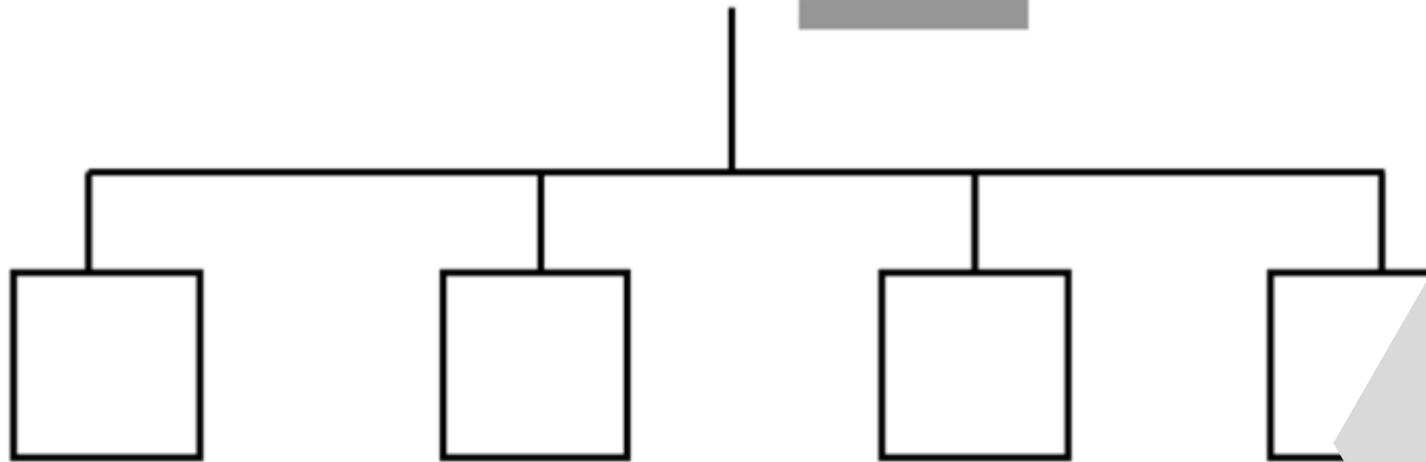


Congress

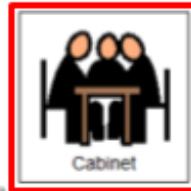
There are flow charts to how each branch is structured.



Executive Branch



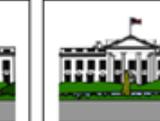
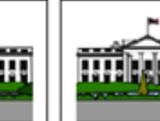
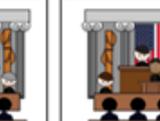
Use each picture in the empty boxes to show how the executive branch is set up.



These flow charts are in a digital format. There is a differentiated form using color coding.

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

 Press Secretary	
 Congress	
 EOP	
 Cabinet	
 Commander in Chief	
	

 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

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

 justice	
 Speaker of the House	
 Vice President	
 Representative	
 President	
 Senator	

There are matching activities where students match responsibilities to each branch.



 Press Secretary	<input type="text"/>
 Congress	<input type="text"/>
 EOP	<input type="text"/>
 Cabinet	<input type="text"/>
 Commander in Chief	<input type="text"/>
 federal judge	<input type="text"/>

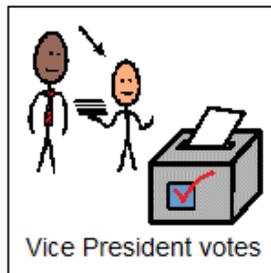
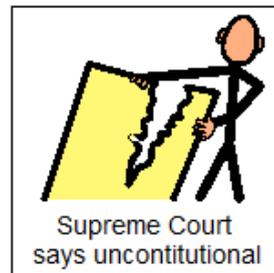
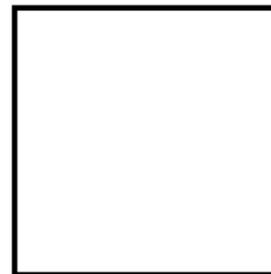
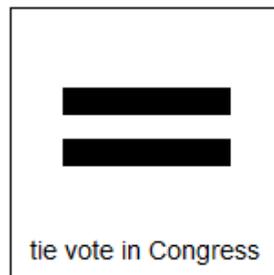
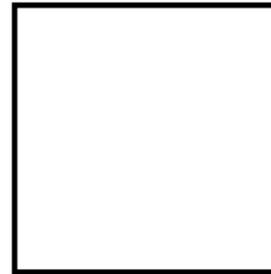
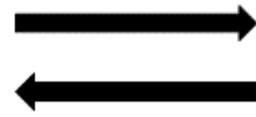
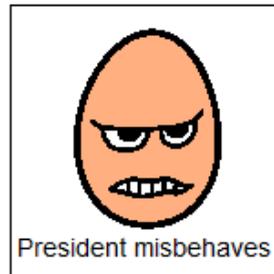
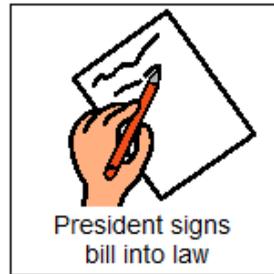
Match the correct branch of government with each job or responsibility listed.

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

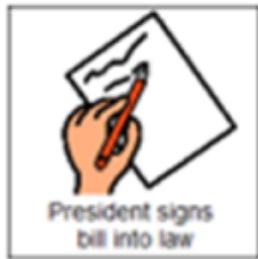
Day 7
differentiated

The matching activities are also in a digital version. The differentiated set has color coding.

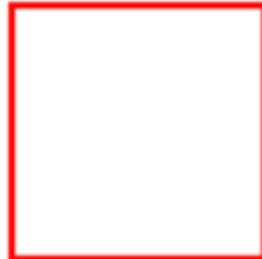
Find the correct pictures to show how each action by one branch is checked by an action of another branch.



There are worksheets that emphasize the checks and balances that occur in the branches of government.



President signs bill into law



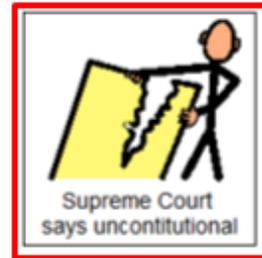
President misbehaves



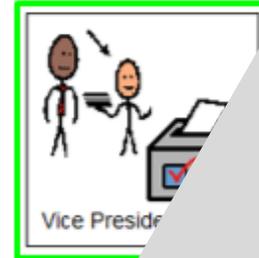
tie vote in Congress



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



Supreme Court says unconstititutional



Vice President

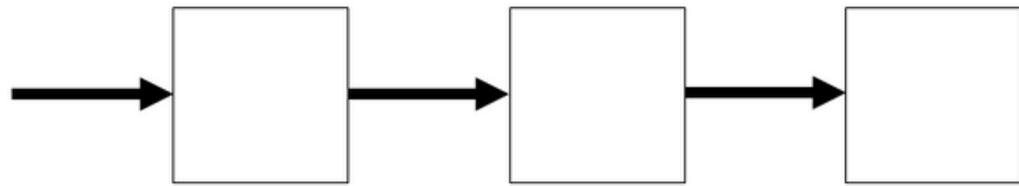
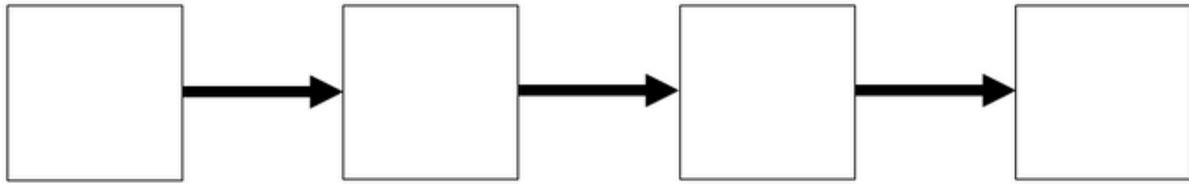


Congress can impeach

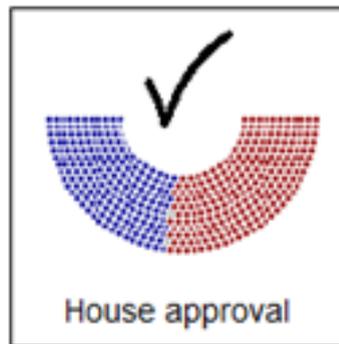
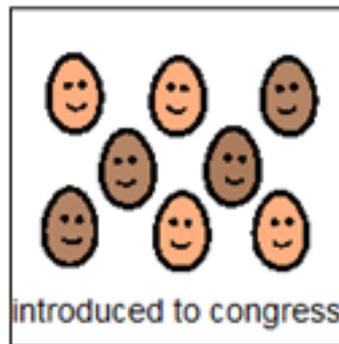
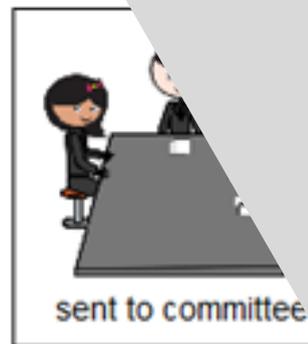
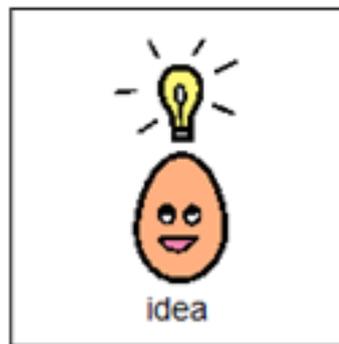
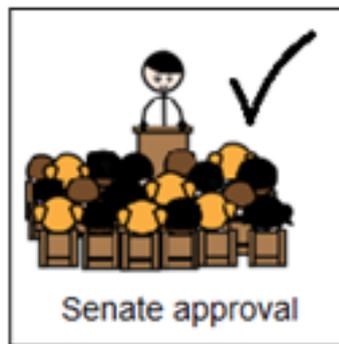
Day 10
differentiated

The matching activities are also in a digital version. There is a color coded version included for differentiation.

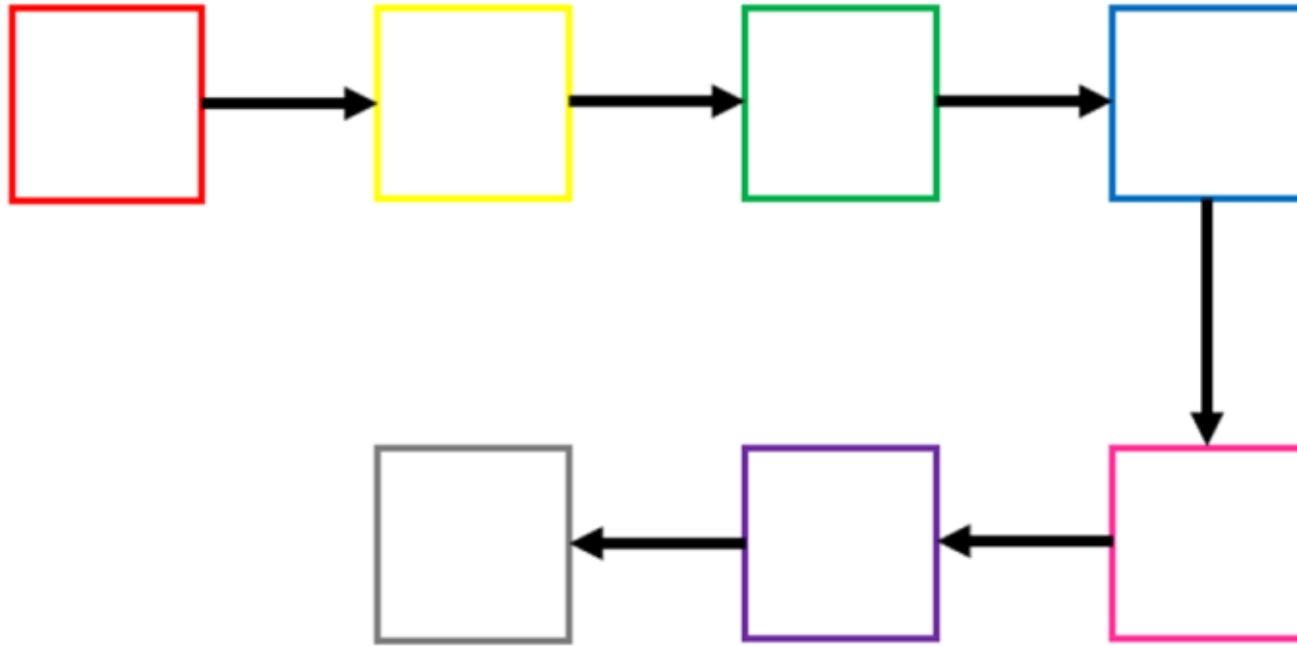
How a Bill Becomes a Law



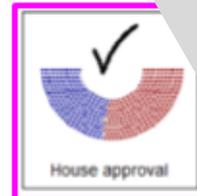
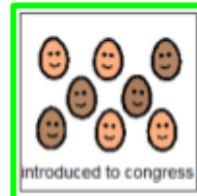
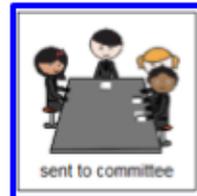
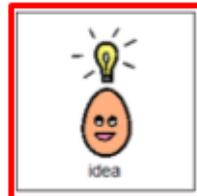
There is a sequencing worksheet on how a bill becomes a law.



Day 11
differentiated



Place the pictures in order on how a bill becomes a law.



ChristaJoy, Special Needs for Special Kids
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The sequencing worksheet also comes in a digital version. There is a color-coded version as well.

Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative branch is made of and .

2. Their main job is to write that will become laws.

3. Congress can also declare .

4. The leader of the House of Representatives is the .

5. Congress is also responsible for , making sure everyone is doing their job.



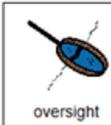
war



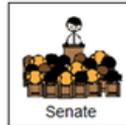
House of Representatives



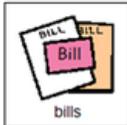
Speaker of the House



oversight



Senate



bills

How a bill becomes a law

1. A bill starts with an .

2. Someone in Congress must the idea.

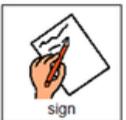
3. The bill then goes to a .

4. After it is approved, the bill goes to the .

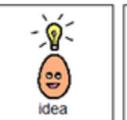
5. The President can either it or it.



President



sign



idea



veto

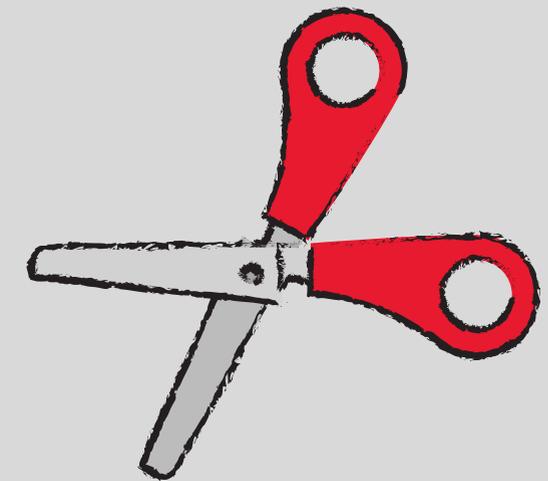


committee



sponsor

There are 4 close worksheets included for a review. 3 cover each branch and 1 covers how a bill becomes a law. Answer key included.



Judicial Branch

1. The Judicial branch is responsible for the law.

2. The Judicial branch makes sure a law that is passed is not .

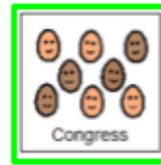
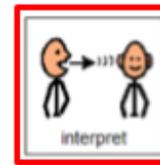
3. A justice is chosen by the and approved by .

4. The is the most powerful court in the country.

5. The Judicial Process makes sure people are treated fairly if accused of a .

Day 16
differentiated

Use the pictures to finish each sentence.

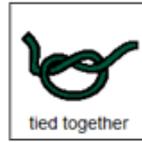
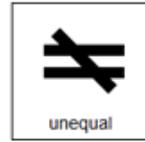
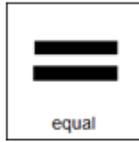


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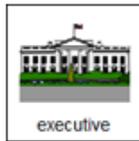
These fill in the blank worksheets also come in digital forms.

The differentiated versions use color coding.

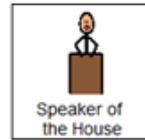
1. All three branches of government have powers that are:



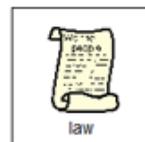
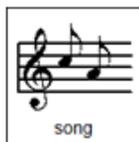
2. Which branch can declare war?



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:



FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.

Q 7



Supreme Court

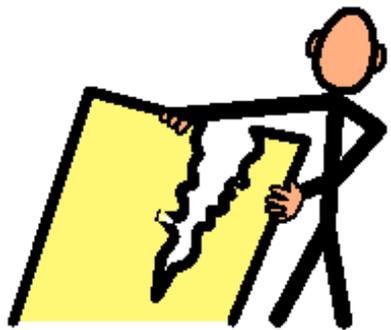


President



Senator

Q 6



unconstitutional



wrong



flipped

With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. All three branches of government have powers that are:
 - A. equal
 - B. unequal
 - C. tied together
2. Which branch can declare war?
 - A. executive
 - B. legislative
 - C. judicial
3. The Commander in Chief, in charge of the military, is also the:
 - A. Press Secretary
 - B. Speaker of the House
 - C. President
4. The legislative process is how a bill becomes a:
 - A. song
 - B. law
 - C. letter
5. In order for an idea to become a bill, someone in Congress needs to:
 - A. forget it
 - B. sign it
 - C. sponsor it
6. This is made up of 15 department heads who help the President:
 - A. Senate
 - B. class
 - C. Cabinet

There is also a traditional multiple choice version. You can also use this to record student answers if using the version with index cards.

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:



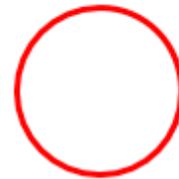
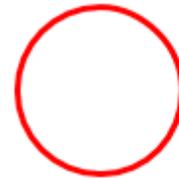
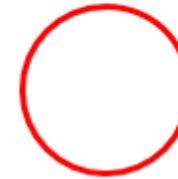
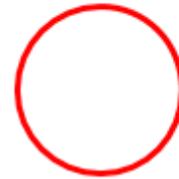
4. The legislative process is how a bill becomes a:



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



Place a circle on the correct answer.



The digital version of the assessment looks like this. There is a differentiated version where the correct answers are already circled with a dashed line.



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)