



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 6

Today's lesson is about the Separation of Powers: Did you know the American Government is separated into three different branches? This works kind of like my family! Each parent has certain jobs, and other times they work together to get to the right answer. For example, it's my Mom's job to cut my hair, so my Dad isn't allowed to. But if I want a doggy treat, both my parents have to agree to let me have one. Our Government works the same – the three branches (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial) each have jobs that only they can do, but also sometimes check and balance each other to make

decisions together.

Sticky Situation: Imagine you are making a soccer team at recess. You can either have one team captain who makes all the decisions for the entire team, or three team captains who share the responsibility. Which would you choose? What are the benefits of giving each team captain specific jobs that they are responsible for?

Activity: Let's learn the different powers of America's three branches of Government. On the left are the three branches. On the right are their responsibilities, shuffled out of order. Draw a line from the branch connecting it to the correct responsibilities. Good luck!

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| 1. Legislative | Includes the President and is responsible for enforcing the laws that Congress makes. |
| 2. Executive | Determines when laws are unconstitutional through court cases. |
| 3. Judicial | Made up of representatives from every state. This branch makes laws. |

Civic Resources: For more information on the three branches of Government, check out: <https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government>. For an **interactive game** that allows you to act as all three branches of Government in creating new laws, go to: https://www.icivics.org/node/74/resource?utm_medium=Launch&utm_source=ProductAnnouncement&utm_campaign=Branches.