

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Directions: Listed below are specific checks by which one branch of government can exert some control over another branch. Write who is applying the check on whom in the space provided. Use "E" for executive, "J" for judicial, and "L" for legislative. For example, E over J (executive over judicial) or J over L (judicial over legislative).

1. Remove judges from office _____
2. Veto bills _____
3. Appoint judges _____
4. Override veto _____
5. Call special sessions _____
6. Control appropriations _____
7. Fail to enforce a court order _____
8. Declare a law unconstitutional _____
9. Grant a reprieve _____
10. Replace some existing courts _____
11. Set free a person being held by the FBI _____
12. Propose an amendment _____
13. Confirm appointments _____
14. Ratify treaties _____
15. Declare the president's actions unconstitutional _____

Which branch of government do you think is the most powerful? Explain your answer.

THE CONGRESS AT WORK

Directions: Read Article I, Sections 4-8 of the Constitution. Then complete the sentences below.

1. The life of a Congress is considered to last _____ years. Its regular session begins on _____ of each year. It remains in session until its members _____. The president can call a _____ session of Congress if it is deemed necessary.
2. A majority of the members of each house must be present to conduct business. This majority is called a _____. At the present time this majority consists of _____ members in the House and _____ members in the Senate.
3. Neither house can adjourn for more than _____ days without the consent of the other. Both houses must meet in the same _____.
4. Members of both houses are free from _____ during their attendance at the session of their respective houses.
5. All bills for raising revenue must begin in the _____, but the _____ has the right to propose _____.
6. All bills that have passed the House and the Senate must be sent to the _____. If he or she approves the bill, he or she will _____ it. If not, it may be returned with the objections to the house where the bill originated. If both houses vote by a two-thirds margin to approve the bill anyway, it then becomes a _____.
7. If the president lets a bill sit for _____ days while Congress is in session, it will become a law even if the president does not sign it. If Congress adjourns during this period, the president can kill the bill by doing nothing. This is known as a _____.
8. The powers of Congress include the right to constitute tribunals _____ to the _____, to call forth the _____, and to make all laws which shall be _____ and _____ for carrying into execution the other powers of Congress.