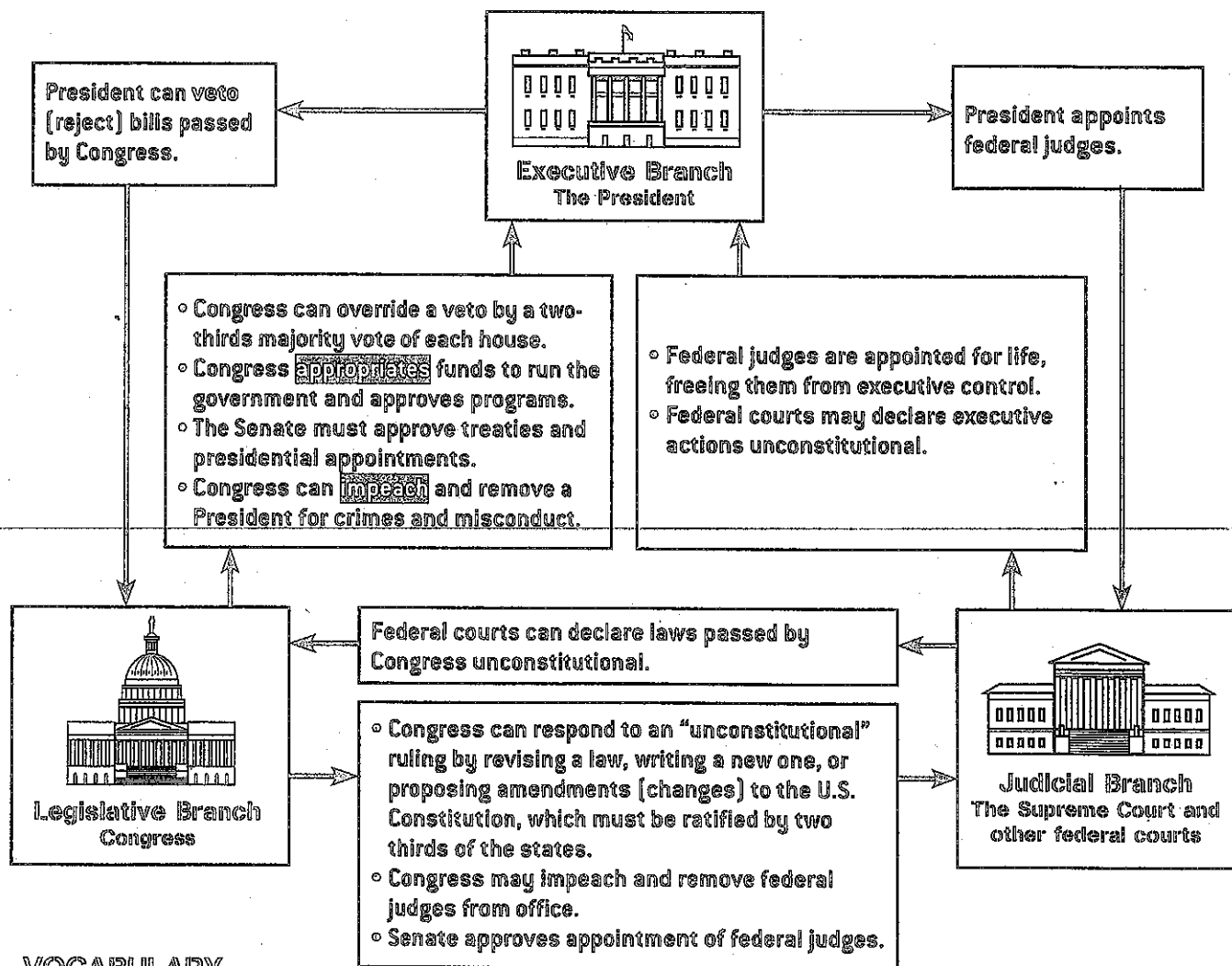


NAME _____

Checks and Balances

The Framers of the U.S. Constitution realized that too much power can be dangerous. To prevent that from happening, the Constitution creates three separate branches of the federal (national) government. The Constitution gives each branch its own powers. This

separation of powers creates a system of checks and balances. Each branch can check (limit) the power of the other two. This helps maintain a balance of power among the three. Study the diagram to see how this works, then answer the questions.



VOCABULARY

◦ appropriate: set aside for a specific use ◦ impeach: bring a charge of wrongdoing against a public official.

Questions

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What does it mean to check the power of a branch of government?
2. Who can veto legislation passed by Congress?
3. How can Congress override a veto?
4. Which branch appoints Supreme Court Justices and other federal judges?
5. How does Congress check that power?
6. How can federal courts check the President's power?
7. How can federal courts check the power of Congress?
8. What limit is on the President's power to make treaties with other countries?
9. Suppose a law is declared unconstitutional. What can be done to change that?
10. What is meant by "separation of powers"?