



Branches of Government

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Social Studies
Grades 3-5



Introduction

Instruct students they will be learning about the three branches of government. Ask students to tell you what they already know about the three branches of government and write that down on an anchor chart or the front board. Make sure that you draw three columns and list each branch separately. Next, show students a short video on the three branches of government. This video asks students three questions at the end to test what they've learned.

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify and describe the functions of the three branches of government, as well as identify the people in each branch.

Materials Needed

- Three Branches of [Government Educational Video](#)

Procedure

1. After the video, go over a few things that the video didn't cover in detail. Go back to your chart where you drew three columns and listed the three branches of government. This time, you are going to add more information under each branch.
2. Ask students to list what they learned about each branch. Write down what students say under the appropriate branch. Then, add information that students missed. Here is an example:
 - Legislative Branch – The House of Representatives and the Senate make up congress, together forming the legislative branch. These people make laws and send them to the President for approval.
 - Executive Branch – The President leads this branch and works from the White House. This branch carries out laws, vetoes laws, and directs the government.
 - Judicial Branch – The Supreme Court leads the judicial branch and is made up of nine judges. There are several more federal judges in courts across the country. This branch reviews laws and holds trials.
3. Next, put students into small groups and give each group three index cards. Have students work together to write down what they know about each branch of government on each index card.
4. Then, go group-by-group and ask each team to tell you one fact about one branch of their choosing.

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Evaluation

- Exit ticket – Have students write one fact about each branch of government.
- Observation of students working in small groups and whole group.