

AS American History Summer Work

You should bring this with you to your first lesson

The Structure of the US government

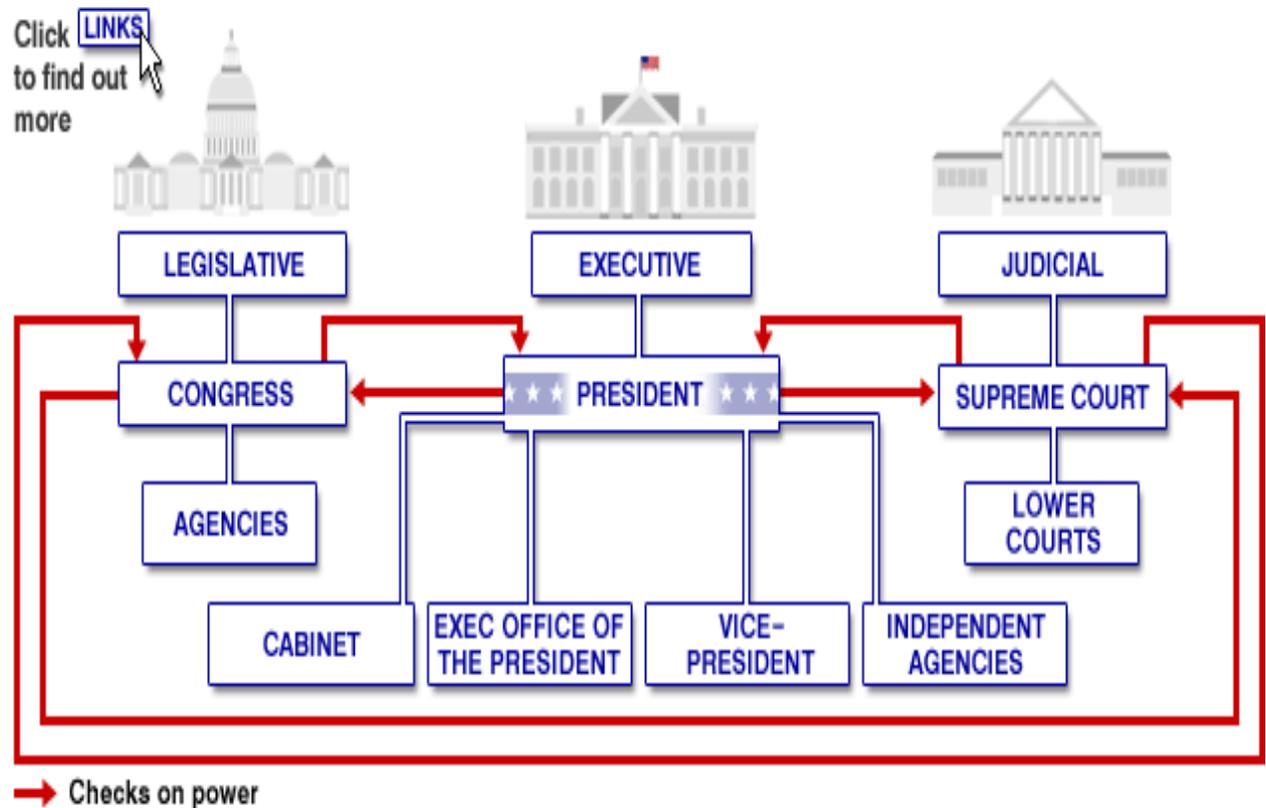
Glossary:

Federal- Government based in Washington that makes laws/decisions that all states have to abide by

The government of the United States is based on a written **constitution**, the shortest in the world in fact. This constitution consists of a Preamble, seven Articles, and 27 Amendments. From this document, the entire federal government was created. It is a living document whose interpretation has changed over time.

Three Branches of Government

The Constitution created three separate branches of government. Each branch has its own powers and areas of influence. At the same time, the Constitution created a system of checks and balances that ensured no one branch would reign supreme. The three branches are shown in a diagram below



Research Questions

What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

How many U.S. Senators are there?

Which branch of Government would be responsible for making the decisions?

- I. To declare war
- II. To raise taxes
- III. To decide that a law is against the constitution

Six Foundational Principles. The Constitution is built on six basic principles. These are deeply ingrained in the mindset and landscape of US Government. Research what each of the terms means and in no more than three sentences, provide a definition in the space below.

- **Popular Sovereignty -**

- **Limited Government -**

- **Separation of Powers -**

- **Checks and Balances -**

- **Judicial Review -**

- **Federalism - Political Processes**

Political Parties; Democrat Vs Republican

How do the two political parties in America differ? Based on the election of 1860, complete the table below.

 Democratic Party	 Republican Party
Nominee	Nominee
Views towards Slavery	Views towards Slavery
Divisions in the party	Divisions in the party
Regional Support	Regional Support
Key policies	Key policies

Modern Day Policy (place a tick if the Democrat Party support the policy)

- Abortion restrictions
- Capital punishment
- Civilian gun control
- Immigration restrictions
- Legalization of same-sex marriages
- Limiting private financing of campaigns
- Progressive taxation
- Universal government health care

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