GOVERNMENT

Civic Tree

Read the following summary then follow the directions below to make a “tree” representing our three-branched government.

Our federal government has three parts. They are the Executive, Legislative and Judicial. All three parts of our federal government have their main headquarters in the city of Washington, D.C.

The Executive Branch
The President of the United States enforces the laws that the Legislative Branch (Congress) makes.

The Legislative Branch
Congress makes our laws. Congress is divided into two parts. One part is called the Senate and the other part is called the House of Representatives. They meet together to discuss ideas and decide if these ideas (bills) should become laws.

The Judicial Branch
The Supreme Court are special judges who are supposed to interpret laws according to the Constitution. They are the highest court in our country.

Supplies

construction paper
scissors
paper bag
glue/hot glue or tape
green crayon

Directions
Open a lunch-sized paper bag and twist the bottom third to create the trunk of a tree. Then tear down from the top to the newly created trunk to make three sections. Twist the sections until they resemble branches. Cut out the leaves from the next page, color them, and glue them on the branches. Make sure you attach the leaves onto the correct branches, and be careful not mix them up!
Civic Tree Leaves

**Legislative**
- Write and vote on bills
- Collect money from taxes
- Declare war

**Executive**
- Sign or veto bills
- Appoint Supreme Court justices
- Negotiate treaties

**Judicial**
- Decide if laws are constitutional
- Interpret application of laws
President-elect Barak Obama has many duties to take on once he is sworn in as President. But he can’t do everything himself. *Read the list below and try to match up the job to the person responsible for carrying out that duty.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Advises on legal matters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Breaks tie votes in the U.S. Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
<td>Advises on foreign affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>Makes treaties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General</td>
<td>Supervises the training of the armed forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>Works to improve schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suggests, signs (or vetos) and carries out laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOVERNMENT

What and Which?

What is the name of this building?

__________________________

__________________________

Which branch of the government meets here?

__________________________

__________________________

Once you have figured out the answers to these two questions, color the building.
There are many famous and beautiful pieces of furniture in the White House, but when we speak of the President's Cabinet we are not referring to any object that President-elect Barak Obama will get to use over the next four years. The United States Cabinet is composed of the most senior appointed officers of the executive branch of our federal government. Cabinet officers are nominated by the President and then presented to the United States Senate for confirmation or rejection by a simple majority. Research Obama's appointments and fill them in in the blanks below.

1. Secretary of Agriculture: ______________
2. The Secretary of the Interior: ______________
3. The Secretary of Commerce: ______________
4. Attorney General: ______________
5. Secretary of Defense: ______________
6. Secretary of Labor: ______________
7. Secretary of Education: ______________
8. Secretary of State: ______________
9. Secretary of Energy: ______________
10. Secretary of Transportation: ______________
11. Secretary of Health and Human Services: ______________
12. Secretary of Treasury: ______________
13. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development: ______________
14. Secretary of Veterans Affairs: ______________
15. Secretary of Homeland Defense: ______________