
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

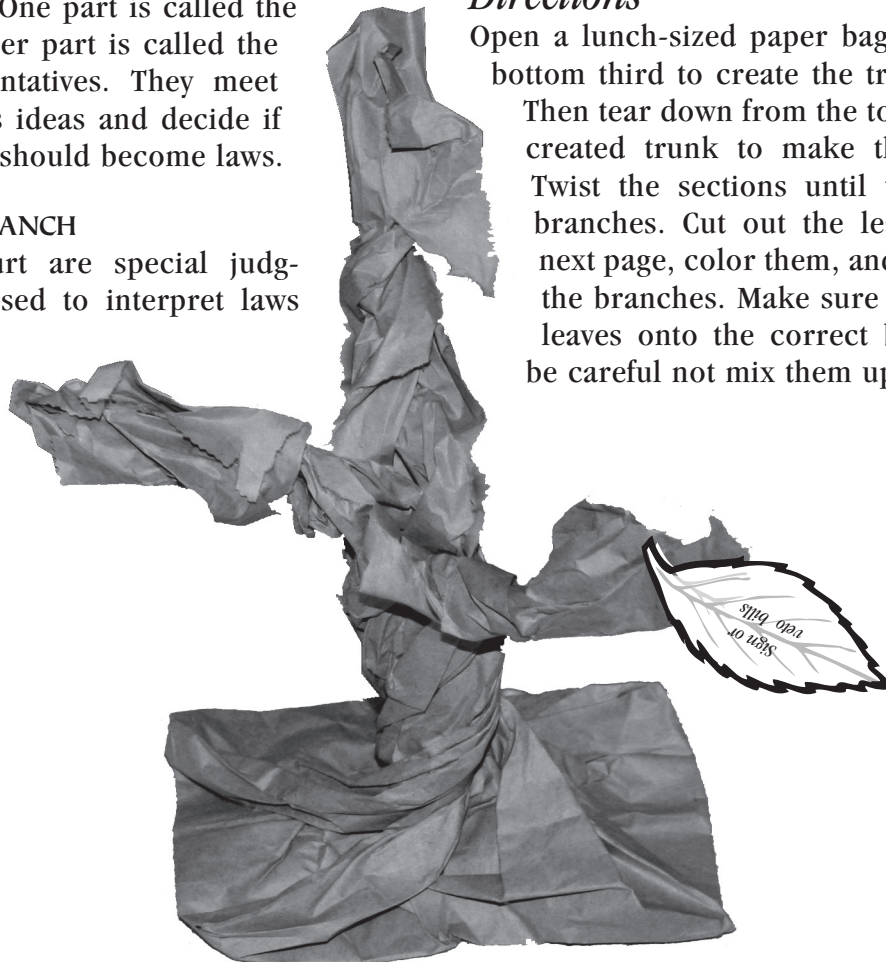
glue/hot glue or tape

green crayon

Directions

Open a lunch-sized paper bag and twist the bottom third to create the trunk of a tree.

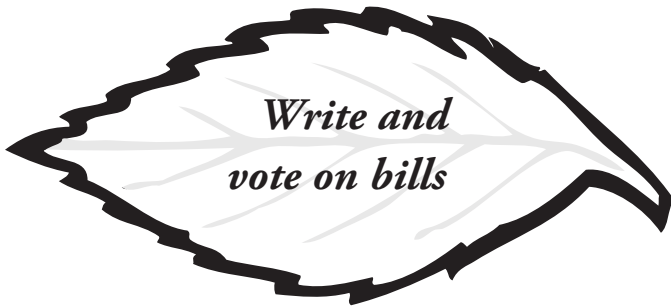
Then tear down from the top to the newly created trunk to make three sections. Twist the sections until they resemble branches. Cut out the leaves from the next page, color them, and glue them on the branches. Make sure you attach the leaves onto the correct branches, and be careful not mix them up!



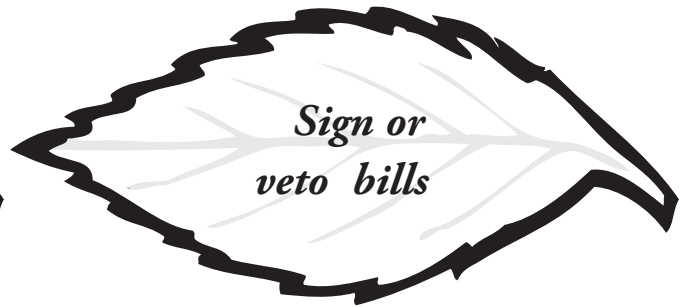
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Civic Tree Leaves

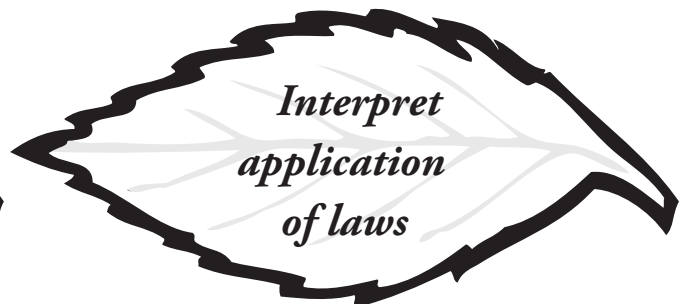
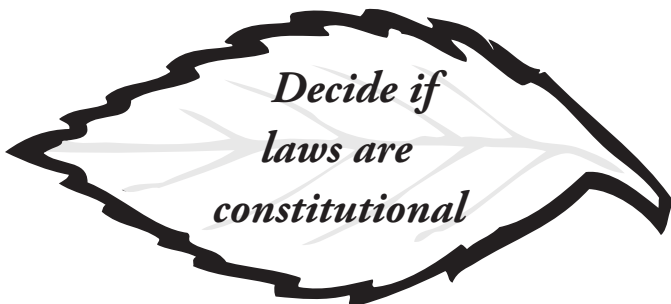
Legislative



Executive



Judicial



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Job Matching

The president has many duties to perform once sworn into office. 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.

President

Advises on legal matters

Vice-President

Breaks tie votes in
the U.S. Senate

Secretary of Defense

Advises on foreign affairs

Secretary of State

Makes treaties

Attorney General

Supervises the training
of the armed forces

Secretary of Education

Works to improve schools

Suggests, signs (or vetos)
and carries out laws

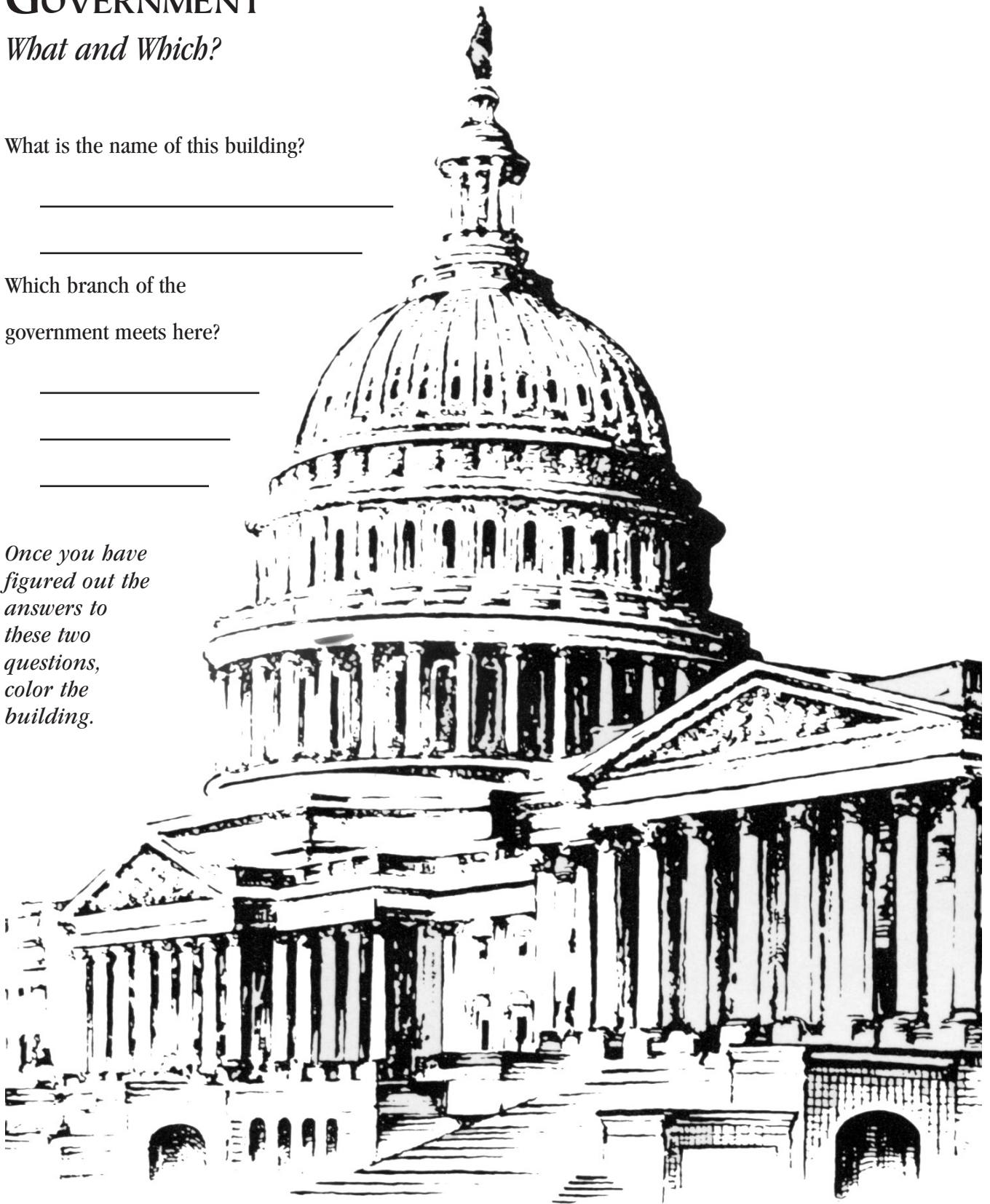
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What and Which?

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.*



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The Cabinet

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 the president 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 the current cabinet officers and write their names 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 Security: _____