

# WQ: Three Branches

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Use this worksheet to collect your answers from the WebQuest.

## Slide 1: There are Three Branches

1. List each branch and what it does:

Branch	Function

2. Famous document that created the three branch structure:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Slide 3: Clap Along: Sep-ar-ate

1. What happens to Uzbek citizens every year?
2. Based on this article, how would you describe the Uzbek government?
3. What type of government does Uzbekistan have?
4. Uzbekistan's president has been in office since:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Slide 5: Check This: The Presidential Veto

Most regular vetoes:	
Only one veto:	
Most recent veto date:	
Subject of that bill:	
Reason for "Presidential Message":	

## Slide 2: Why Three?

1. Why did the people who wrote the Constitution create different branches of government?
2. "Each branch would be a check on the power of the other two branches" probably means...  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Slide 4: Checking & Balancing

1. The judicial branch can check the other branches by...
  - Declaring laws \_\_\_\_\_
  - Interpreting \_\_\_\_\_
2. If the president checks the legislative branch by vetoing a bill, the legislative branch can...  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The president has the power to nominate, but the legislative branch has the power to...  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Slide 6: Check This: Presidential Nominations

1. Courts with judges nominated by the president:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total number of judge positions: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think of that number?

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## Slide 7: Check This: Veto Overrides

- Date of override: \_\_\_\_\_
- Subject of bill: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why are there two "Passed over veto" links?
- # Senators who voted "Yes": \_\_\_\_\_  
# Representatives who voted "Yes": \_\_\_\_\_
- Does it tell you exactly which members voted yes and no?  
 Yes, it tells you.    No, it doesn't tell you.

## Slide 9: Check This: Approving Nominations

- Part of the legislative branch with power to confirm or reject a presidential nominee:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Last Supreme Court nominee rejected:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by President \_\_\_\_\_
- Being confirmed is  easy    not easy  
Here's what the nominee has to do:

## Slide 8: Check This: Impeachment!

Date of the article:	
Name of president:	
What just happened?	
Part of legislative branch that votes to impeach:	
Part of legislative branch that holds the trial:	
Explain the crime:	
Did the president commit the crime himself?	
3 things that make it seem like the president knew about the crime:	1. 2. 3.
What happened to the president?	

## Slide 10: Check This: Interpreting Laws

- What happened on July 24, 1974?
- What did the Court say about separation of powers? Can the President always hide everything from the other branches?

Johnson's three prior convictions:	1. 2. 3.
Designation by the district court:	
15-year sentence required if Johnson had no prior felonies?	
Was the ACCA definition of "violent felony" clear? Why?	
Laws that don't give fair notice of what conduct will be punished violate the...	

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Name **\*\* Teacher Guide \*\***

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## Slide 1: There are Three Branches

1. List each branch and what it does:

Branch	Function
<i>Legislative</i>	<i>Makes laws</i>
<i>Executive</i>	<i>Carries out laws</i>
<i>Judicial</i>	<i>Evaluates laws</i>

2. Famous document that created the three branch structure:

*The Constitution*

## Slide 3: Clap Along: Sep-ar-ate

1. What happens to Uzbek citizens every year?

*They are forced to work in the nation's cotton fields.*

2. Based on this article, how would you describe the Uzbek government?

*Answers will vary; students may say the government has all the power.*

3. What type of government does Uzbekistan have?

*republic; authoritarian presidential rule with little power outside the executive branch*

4. Uzbekistan's president has been in office since:

*1990*

## Slide 5: Check This: The Presidential Veto

Most regular vetoes:	Franklin D. Roosevelt
Only one veto:	James Monroe
Most recent veto date:	(will vary)
Subject of that bill:	(will vary)
Reason for "Presidential Message":	To explain why the president vetoed the bill

## Slide 2: Why Three?

1. Why did the people who wrote the Constitution create different branches of government?

*To separate the powers of government so no one person or group would be able to create, administer, and enforce the laws.*

2. "Each branch would be a check on the power of the other two branches" probably means...

*that each branch can limit or stop the other branch.*

## Slide 4: Checking & Balancing

1. The judicial branch can check the other branches by...

- Declaring laws *unconstitutional*
- Interpreting *laws*

2. If the president checks the legislative branch by vetoing a bill, the legislative branch can...

*override the veto (with enough votes)*

3. The president has the power to nominate, but the legislative branch has the power to...

*approve the nomination*

## Slide 6: Check This: Presidential Nominations

1. Courts with judges nominated by the president:

- *Supreme Court*
- *Court of Appeals*
- *District Court*

*9 + 179 + 678*

2. Total number of judge positions: *= 866*

3. What do you think of that number?

*Answers will vary. Students should explain why the number seems high or low to them.*

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## Slide 7: Check This: Veto Overrides

- Date of override: May 21, 2008
- Subject of bill: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act*
- Why are there two "Passed over veto" links?  
*One is the vote in the House of Representatives and the other is the Senate vote.*
- # Senators who voted "Yes": 82  
# Representatives who voted "Yes": 316
- Does it tell you exactly which members voted yes and no?  
 Yes, it tells you.    No, it doesn't tell you.

## Slide 9: Check This: Approving Nominations

- Part of the legislative branch with power to confirm or reject a presidential nominee:  
Senate
- Last Supreme Court nominee rejected:  
Name: Robert Bork  
Date: 10/23/87  
Nominated by President Ronald Reagan
- Being confirmed is  easy  not easy  
Here's what the nominee has to do:  
*Respond to lots of questions from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Students might say these are difficult questions or the process takes a long time.)*

## Slide 8: Check This: Impeachment!

Date of the article:	<i>July 28, 1974</i>
Name of president:	<i>President Nixon</i>
What just happened?	<i>House judiciary committee recommended impeachment</i>
Part of legislative branch that votes to impeach:	<i>House of Representatives</i>
Part of legislative branch that holds the trial:	<i>Senate</i>
Explain the crime:	<i>Five men broke into the Democratic Nat'l Committee headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.</i>
Did the president commit the crime himself?	<i>No</i>
3 things that make it seem like the president knew about the crime:	<i>Answers will vary, but some suspicious things are the 18-minute gap in the tape; people resigning/being fired from the White House; Nixon refusing to hand over the tapes; Nixon wanting to fire the man who was insisting he surrender the tapes.</i>
What happened to the president?	<i>He resigned before going through the impeachment process.</i>

## Slide 10: Check This: Interpreting Laws

- What happened on July 24, 1974?  
*The Supreme Court ruled Nixon had to hand over the tapes.*
- What did the Court say about separation of powers? Can the President always hide everything from the other branches?  
*No. Separation of powers doesn't give an absolute presidential privilege. The president can't just hide everything.*

Johnson's three prior convictions:	1. <i>Attempted simple robbery</i> 2. <i>Simple robbery</i> 3. <i>Possession of short-barreled shotgun</i>
Designation by the district court:	<i>"violent felonies"</i>
15-year sentence required if Johnson had no prior felonies?	<i>No</i>
Was the ACCA definition of "violent felony" clear? Why?	<i>Answers will vary, but students should say it isn't clear</i>
Laws that don't give fair notice of what conduct will be punished violate the...	<i>Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment</i>