

Activity 5 The Constitution

Directions: Fill in the chart below. Column 1 lists powers which the Constitution gives to either the President, Congress, or the Supreme Court. Find the place in the Constitution where each power is granted. In Column 2, write the Article and Section number where each power is assigned. In Column 3, write "President," "Congress," or "Supreme Court," depending on which is given the power.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Powers	Article and Section of Constitution	Granted to
1. Collect taxes	_____	_____
2. Command the armed forces	_____	_____
3. Try cases involving the Constitution	_____	_____
4. Try cases between two states	_____	_____
5. Coin money	_____	_____
6. Control trade with foreign countries	_____	_____
7. Grant pardons	_____	_____
8. Declare war	_____	_____
9. Make treaties	_____	_____
10. Set up courts below the Supreme Court	_____	_____
11. Borrow money	_____	_____
12. Set up post offices	_____	_____
13. Appoint ambassadors to foreign countries	_____	_____
14. Control trade between the states	_____	_____

Separation of Powers

The Founding Fathers wanted to make sure no one branch of the government would become too strong. To do this, they gave specific powers to each branch.

Some of these powers are listed below. Decide which branch has each power: the executive (E), judicial (J), or legislative (L) branch. Write the appropriate letter on the line before each power.

- ___ 1. the right to declare laws unconstitutional
- ___ 2. the right to declare war
- ___ 3. the right to make treaties
- ___ 4. the right to impeach high-ranking officials
- ___ 5. the right to nominate judges
- ___ 6. the right to make laws
- ___ 7. the right to resolve disputes between states

NAME _____

Checks and Balances

The system of checks and balances is the means by which each branch of government makes sure the other branches of government are doing their jobs properly. Each branch is able to check the actions of the others.

The three branches of government are shown below. Under each branch, write its major function. Next to each arrow, write how one branch of government checks the actions of another branch.

