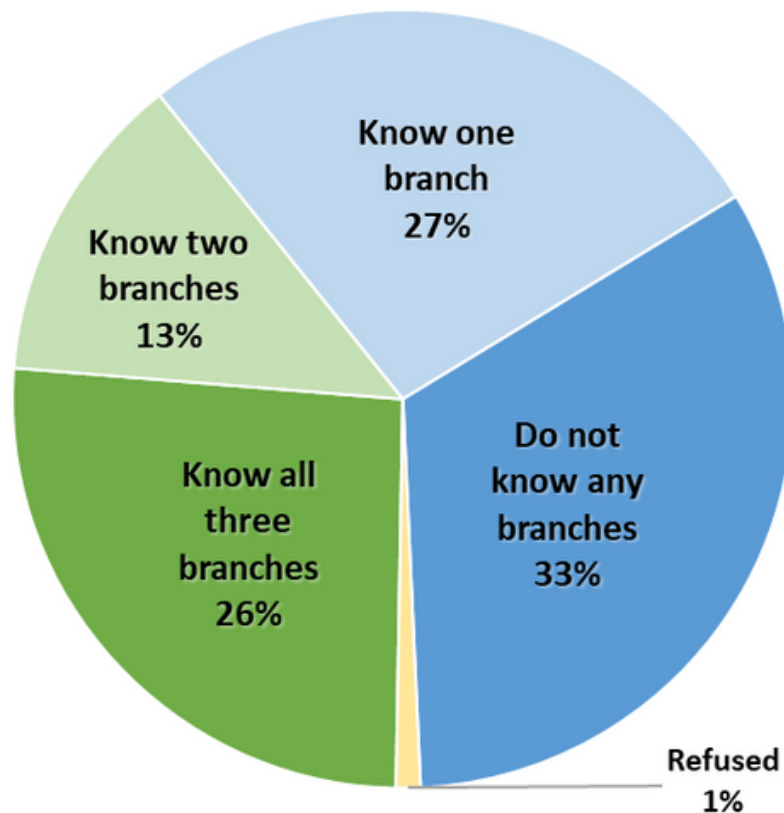


Results of Survey

% of people who can name the three branches of government



Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey, August 9-13, 2017.
Annenberg Public Policy Center

The annual Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey found that over 30% of Americans cannot name any branches of the U.S. government. Only 26% know all 3 branches!

Teacher note: For more information on the survey, look up the "annual Annenberg Constitution Day Civics survey" through the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Information on Branches of Government

- 'Checks and Balances' refer to the balance of power in our government. Because there are three branches of government, each branch needs to have some power over the others.
- The three branches of government are the executive, judicial and legislative branches.
- The executive branch is the president and their cabinet.
- The judicial branch is the system of courts in the U.S. The highest court is the Supreme Court.
- The legislative branch is made up by the House of Representative and the Senate. 'Legislative' means to write laws.
- Powers of the executive branch: Can veto bills passed by Congress, can pass executive orders.
- Powers of the legislative branch: Power to impeachment the president, can override the president's veto, has to approve presidential appointments to the Supreme Court.
- Powers of the judicial branch: Can declare laws that were passed by Congress 'unconstitutional,' meaning it goes against the Constitution. Supreme Court justices have life-long terms so that they do not have to worry about the elections of future presidents.

Three Branches in Action

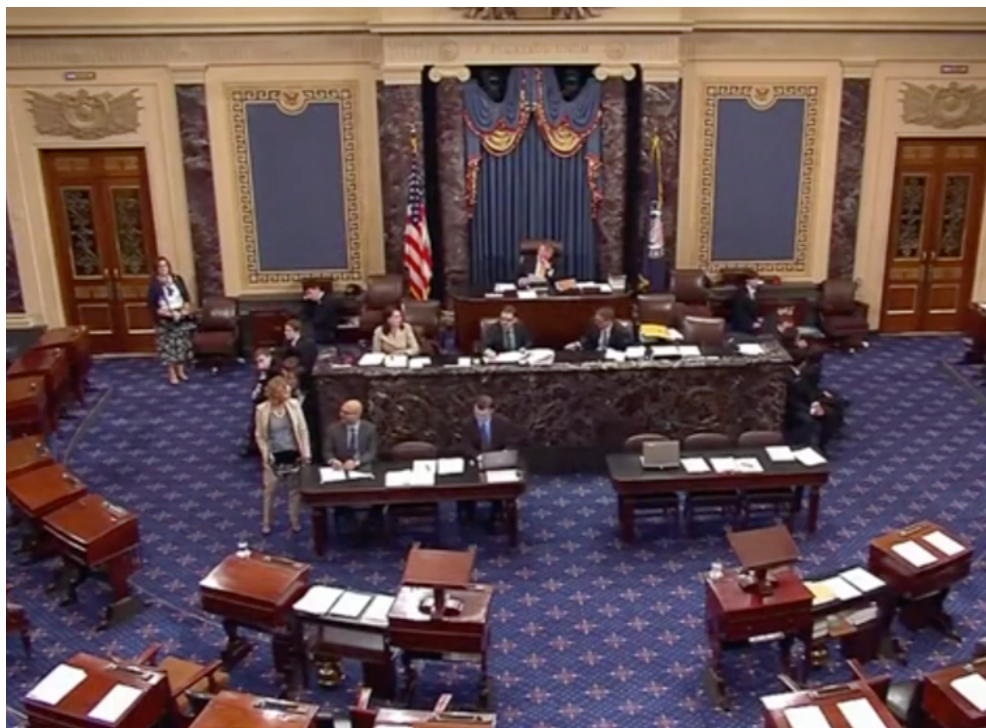


This is an image of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declaring that he will veto a bill in front of the House of Representatives in 1935. This means the president doesn't want the bill to become a law.



This is an image of President George W. Bush signing the Job Creation and Worker Assistance bill into law in 2002. The purpose of this law was to lower taxes on businesses and encourage job creation.

Three Branches in Action



This is an image of the Senate voting to override President Obama's veto of a bill in 2016. A presidential veto can be overturned if $\frac{2}{3}$ of Congress votes to to overturn the veto. If the veto is overturned, this means the bill becomes a law.



This is an image of President Reagan and his nominee for Supreme Court Justice, Anthony Kennedy in 1988. Presidents nominate Supreme Court Justices, but the Senate has to confirm the nomination before they can officially become a Supreme Court judge.

Name: _____

Creating An App

Your app will be a game with four different levels. For each level, there will be a list of requirements that you must include. In the first level, users will learn about the powers that the president has and why there is a system of checks and balances. Once they learn all of the information, they will move on to Level 2. In levels 2-4, users will play a game that takes place in a country without a system of checks and balances.

Step 1: Brainstorming Ideas For Your Game

Answer the questions below. You do not need to use complete sentences.

What characters will be in your game?

How will users earn points in your game?

How can users win your game?

Lesson: Powers of the President

Step #2: Design Level 1

Requirements:

- This level must teach users about the powers that the president has
- This level must teach users about what a system of checks and balances is and why it is in place in the government
- You must include at least 3 pieces of information from the handout provided.
- You must include a description of how users will earn points and move on to the next level.

Your job:

- Sketch pictures and write a description about what will happen in this level.

Description:

Step #4 Additional Features

In the below box, write or draw other features or information you want your app to give kids who play the game. Examples include a screen that gives kids more background on the powers of the president. Or, more ways to earn points to receive tokens or powers to help win the game.

Feature 1:

Feature 2: