

Constitution 101



Day 1 – The Three Branches
“One Ring to Rule Them All”

Objectives

- Identify the themes of the 7 Articles of the Constitution
- Know the 3 Branches of government, what each does, and who heads them

Terms:

- Legislative
- Executive
- Judicial
- Congress
- House of Representatives
- Senate
- President
- Cabinet
- Supreme Court
- “Checks and Balances”

Remindest Thou Me

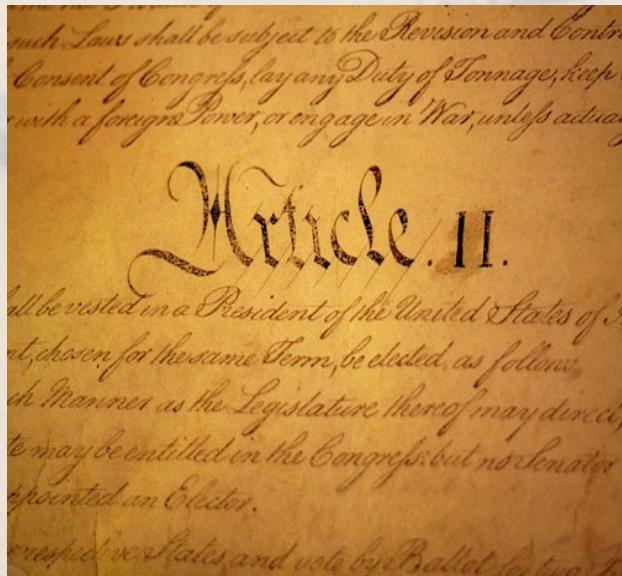
- **WHY do we have Constitutions?**
- **What things are needed in a Constitution?**
- Who wrote our Constitution?
- **What is the beginning called?**

The Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

But, that's not all...

- *Besides the Preamble we have all of the actual “body” of the Constitution*
- *Like a Table of Contents, the Constitution is divided into 7 parts or “Articles”*



- **Not THIS kind →**
- **← THIS kind**



It means “a piece”

7 Articles Of The Constitution

- 1. Legislative
- 2. Executive
- 3. Judicial
- 4. States
- 5. Amendment
- 6. Supremacy
- 7. Ratification

7 Articles of The Constitution

- 1. Large
- 2. Elephants
- 3. Jump
- 4. Stupidly
- 5. Around
- 6. Super
- 7. Rodents



7 Articles Of The Constitution

**Find A Way
to
Remember
Them!**

- 1. L
- 2. E
- 3. J
- 4. St
- 5. A
- 6. Su
- 7. R

Article I: Legislative

- **1. Legislative**
 - “To make laws”
 - Makes the Law
- **2. Congress**
 - BOTH “houses” of government
 - **1st is the House of Representatives**
 - The one based on population
 - **2nd is the Senate**
 - The one where each state just gets two votes.

Article 2: Executive

- 1. Executive
 - To “direct or rule”
 - Enforces the Law
- 2. President
 - Head of the Executive Branch
 - *2nd in Command is the Vice-President*
 - Cabinet
 - *Not the kind in your house...*
 - Presidential Advisors
 - (in many specific areas)

Article 2: Executive

Cabinet Positions

(you don't have to know them all, but you should know a few)

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

Question:

Who becomes President if the President dies?

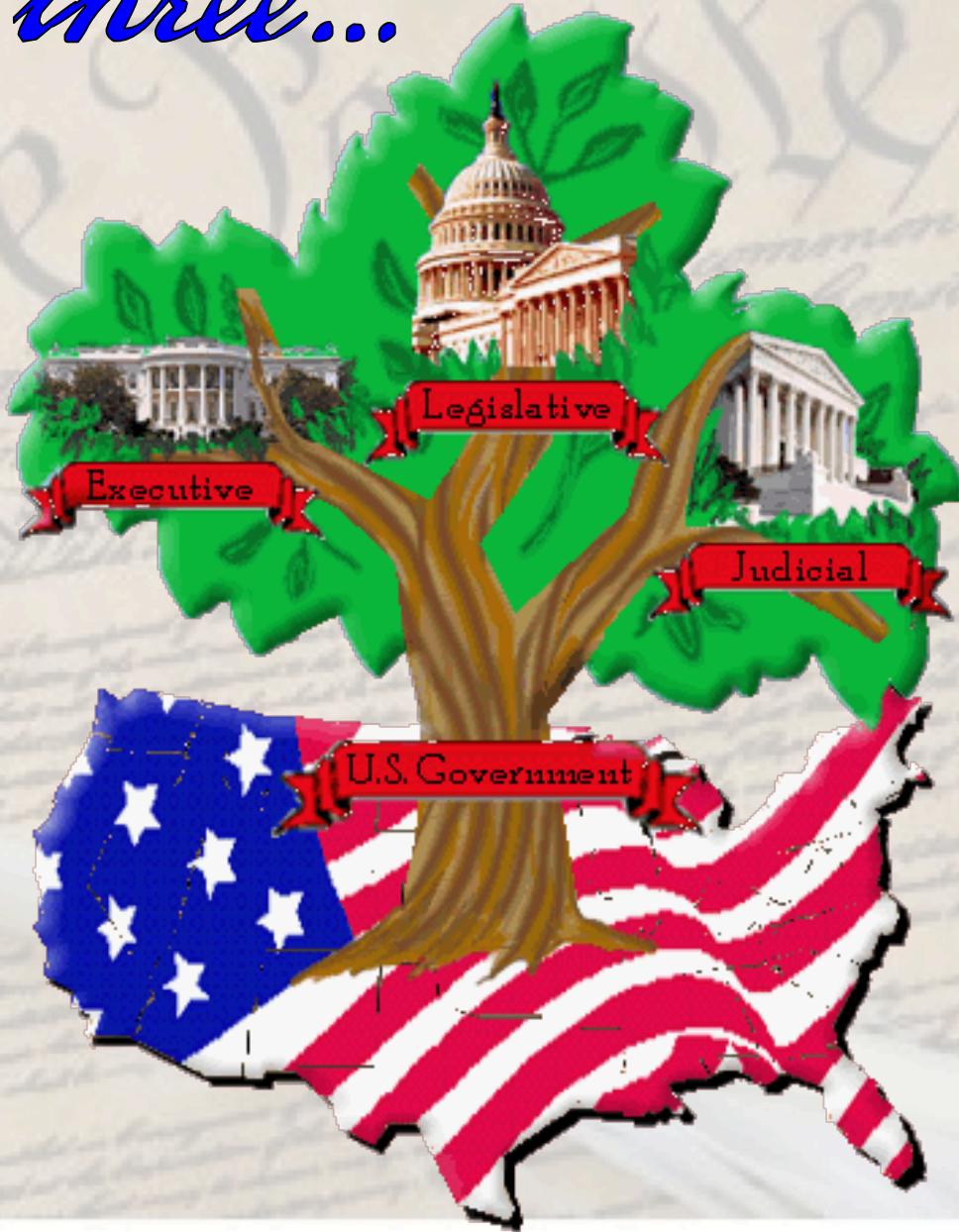
- We call that “Order of Succession” and it goes like this:
 - 1. Vice-President
 - 2. Speaker of the House
 - 3. President Pro Temp of the Senate
 - 4. The Cabinet Positions in Order
 - *Any questions on that?*

Articles 3: Judicial

- 1. Judicial
 - “To Judge the Law”
 - Interprets Law
- 2. Supreme Court
 - The highest court in the land.
 - Must decide if things are “constitutional” or, allowed based on the Constitution.
 - There are 9 Justices

The first three...

- **Legislative + Executive + Judicial =?**
- **The three “branches” of government!**



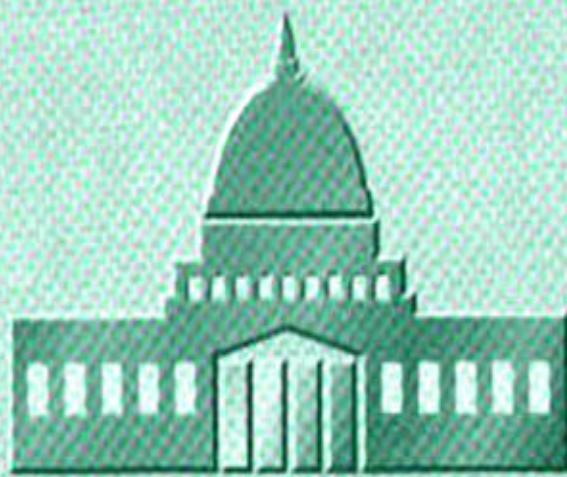
The first three...

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The Structure of Government

- **3 Branches**
- Each Branch has some of their own unique jobs
- Each Branch has a way to “check” the other
 - *Think in Sports, what does it mean to “check”?*
- **Let’s look at it on a chart...**



Legislative
(makes laws)

Executive
(carries out laws)

Judicial
(evaluates laws)

Senate

House of
Representatives

President

Supreme
Court

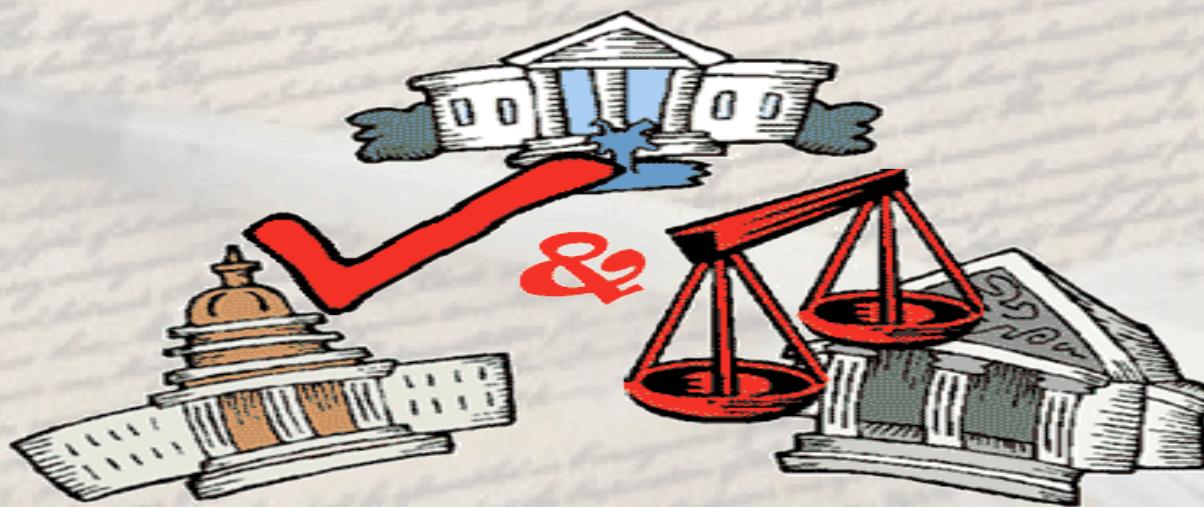
Vice
President

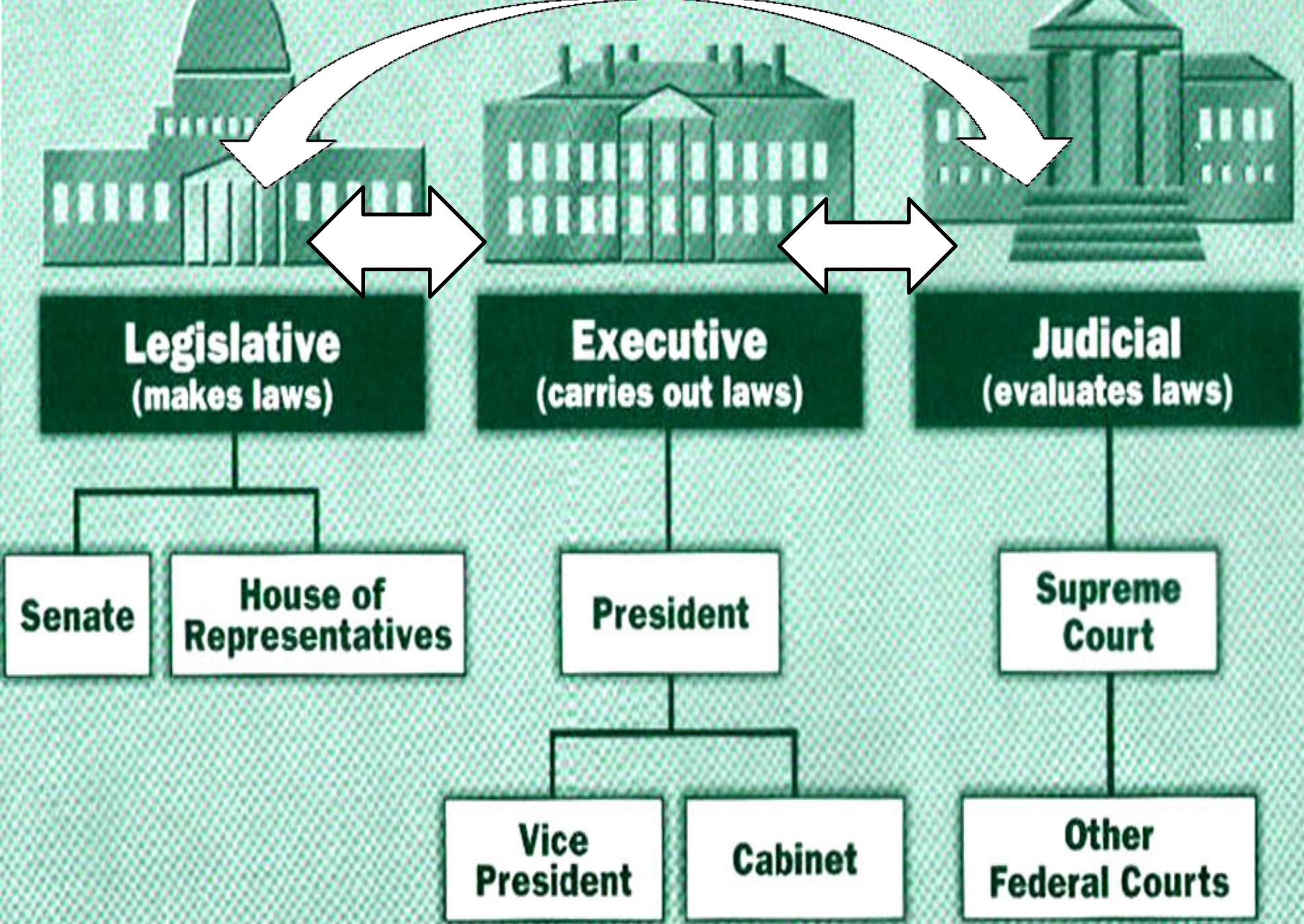
Cabinet

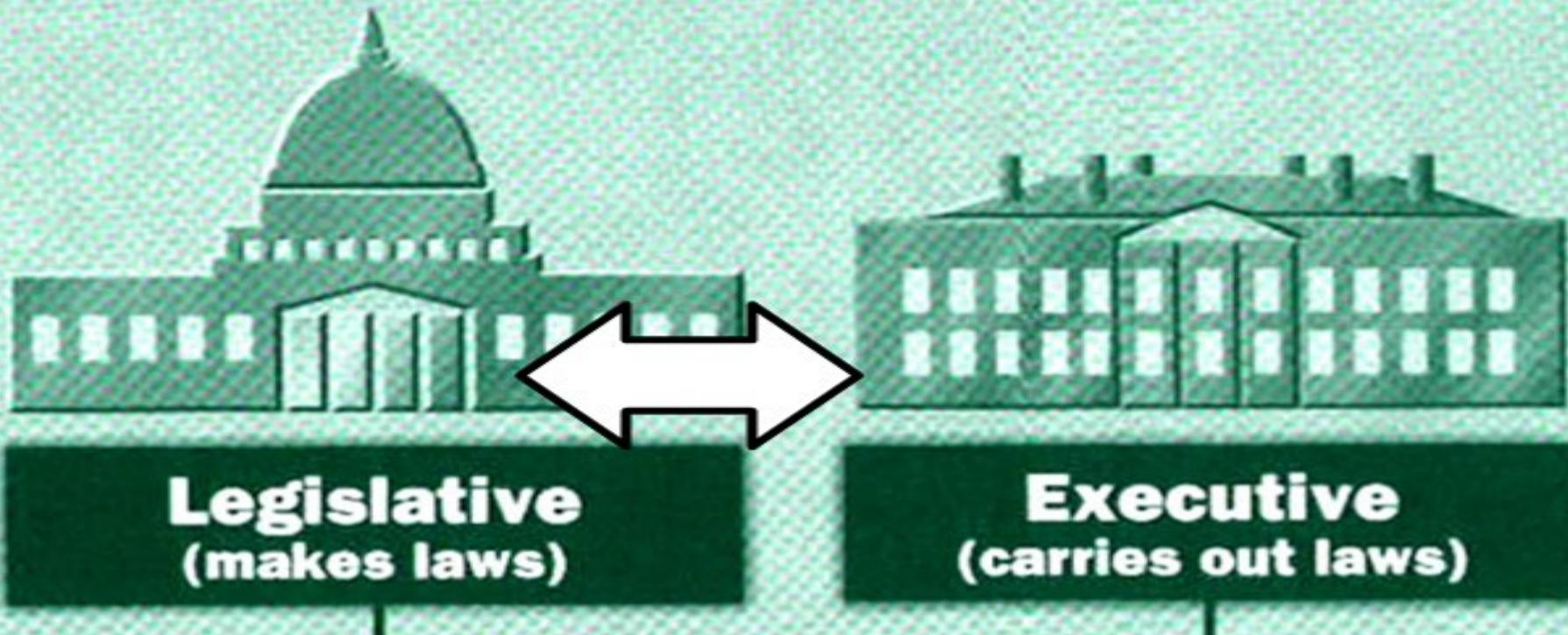
Other
Federal Courts

Checks and Balances

- How do we make sure no one “branch” is greater than the others?
- Checks and Balances
 - The way each “branch” has some power over the others, but also has to answer to the others

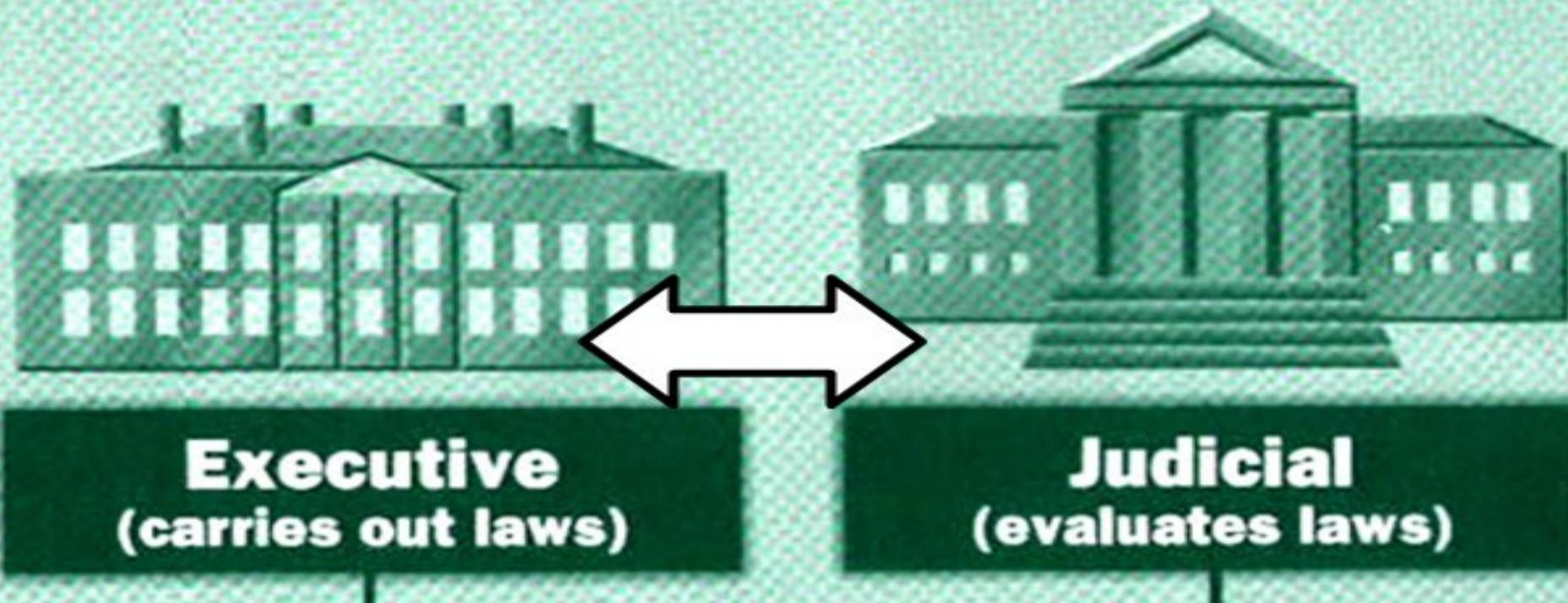






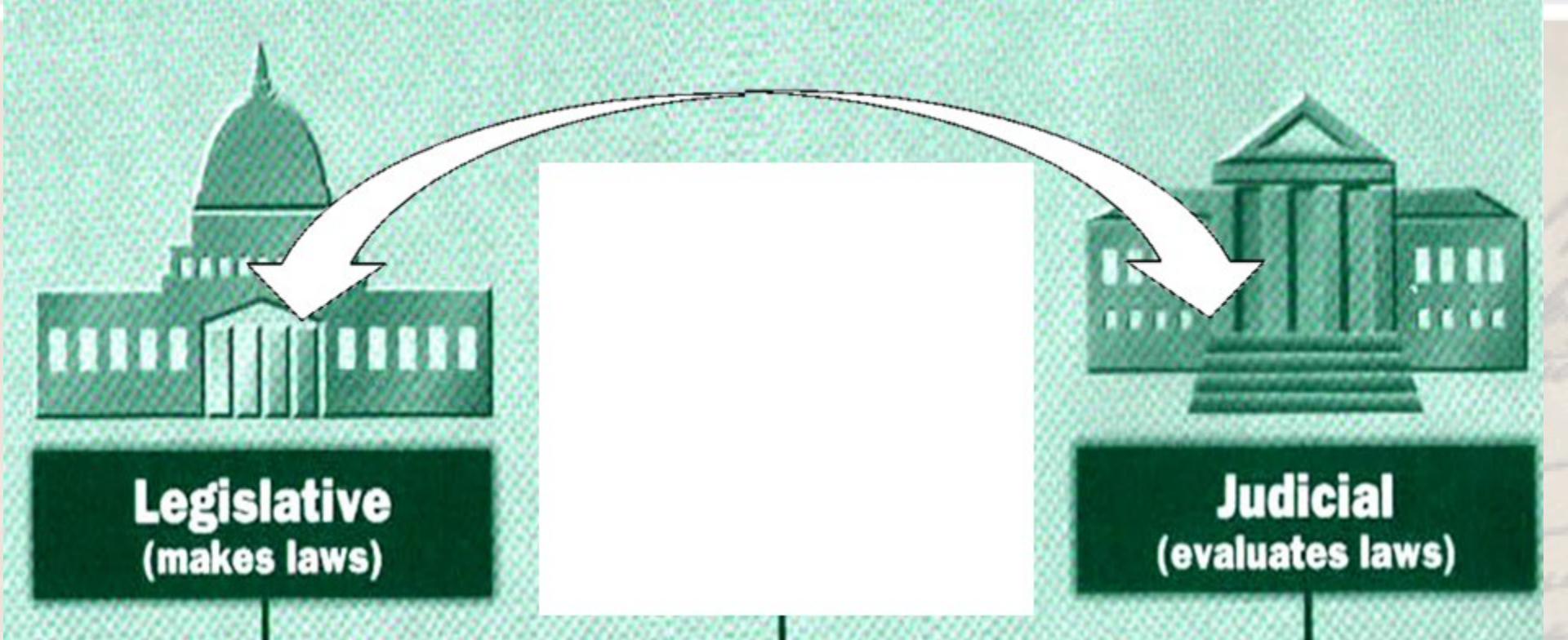
Legislative and Executive

- Congress can override a veto
- Senate confirms Cabinet members
- Impeachment
- President must sign laws
- He can veto
- VP presides Senate



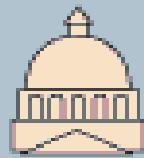
Executive and Judicial

- President appoints Judges
- Decides *who* to prosecute
- Supreme Court can rule things unconstitutional
 - Acts, Executive Orders, courts, arrests, wars, etc.



Legislative and Judicial

- Senate confirms Judges
- Impeachment
- Appoints lower courts
- Laws determined Constitutional



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Congress

House of Representatives; Senate.

House and Senate can veto each other's bills.

Congress approves presidential nominations and controls the budget. It can pass laws over the president's veto and can impeach the president and remove him or her from office.



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The President

Executive office of the president; executive and cabinet departments; independent government agencies.

The president can veto congressional legislation.

The president nominates judges.

The Court can declare presidential acts unconstitutional.

The Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

The Senate confirms the president's nominations. Congress can impeach judges and remove them from office.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Courts

Supreme Court; Courts of Appeal; District courts.

And So...

- **Those are the First Three Articles to the Constitution, which also cover the Three Branches to Government, their jobs, the ways they “check” each other, and the majority of what is IN the Constitution**
- **Next time: A QUIZ, then Handouts asking about the Three Branches, and how they “balance” each other**
- **After That: The remaining Articles and “Principles” of the Constitution**

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