

# *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”

# *Reminded Thou Me*

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





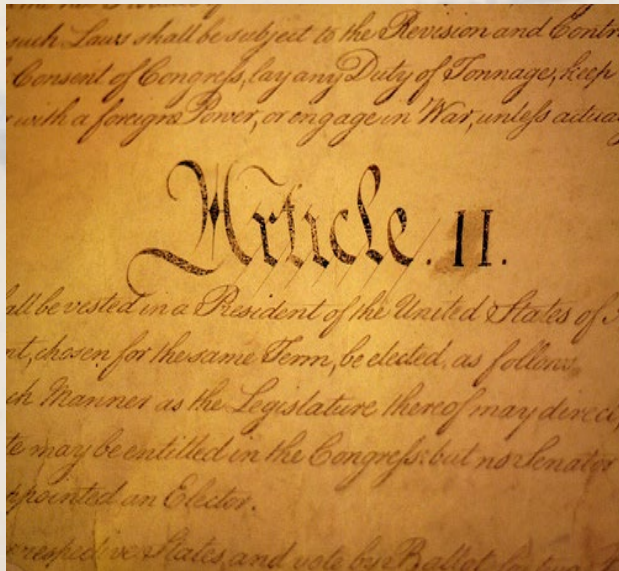
# The Preamble

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**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> is the House of Representatives**
    - **The one based on population**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> 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
    - *2<sup>nd</sup> 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...

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



# *The Structure of Government*

- **3 Branches**

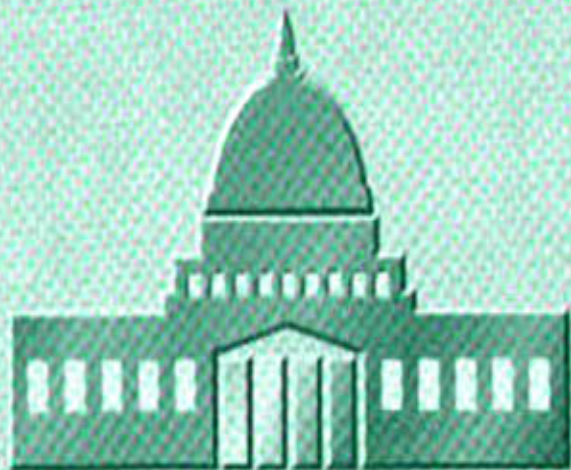
- Each Branch has some of their own unique jobs

- 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...**

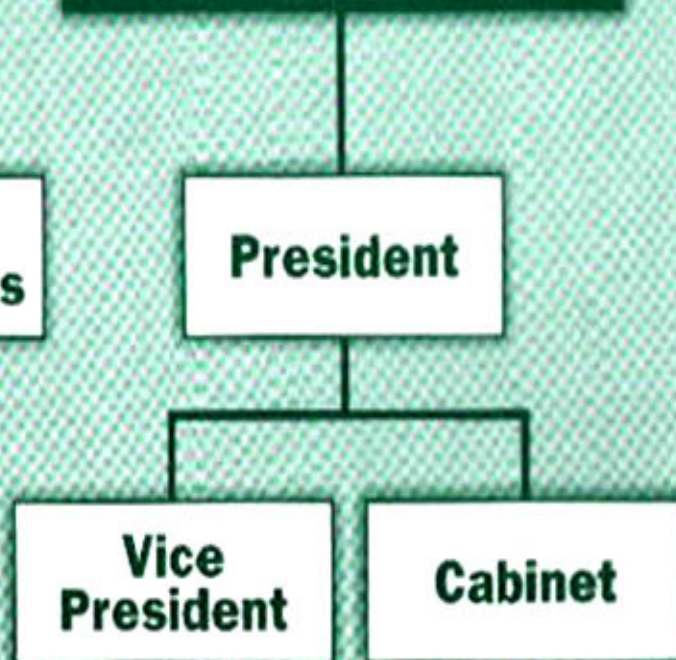




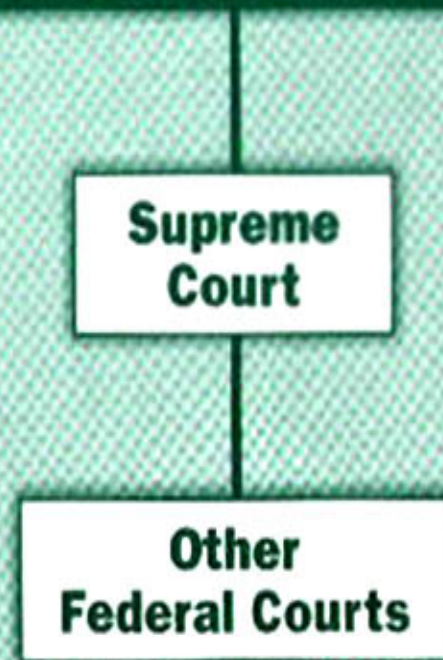
**Legislative**  
(makes laws)



**Executive**  
(carries out laws)



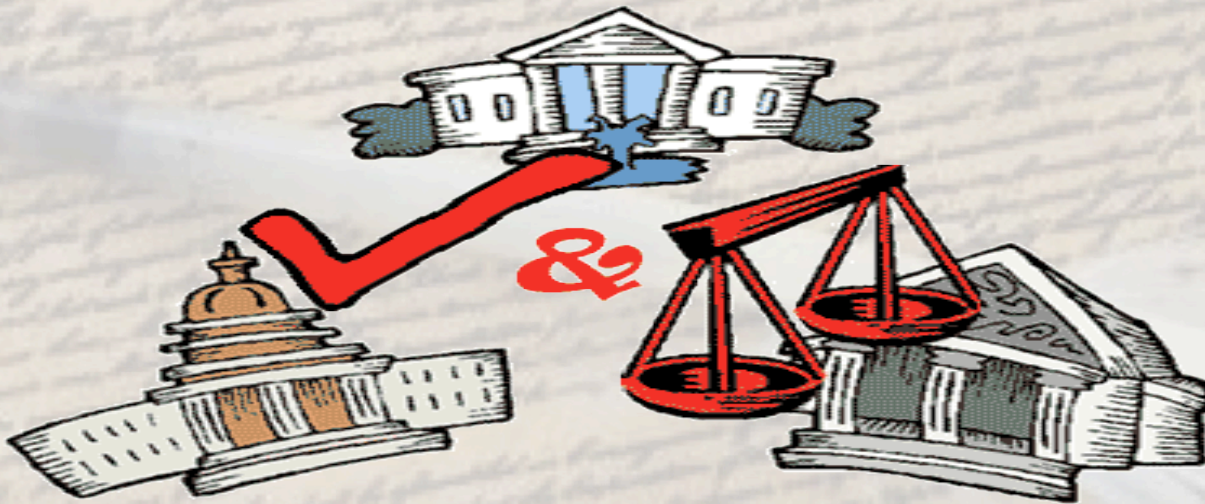
**Judicial**  
(evaluates laws)



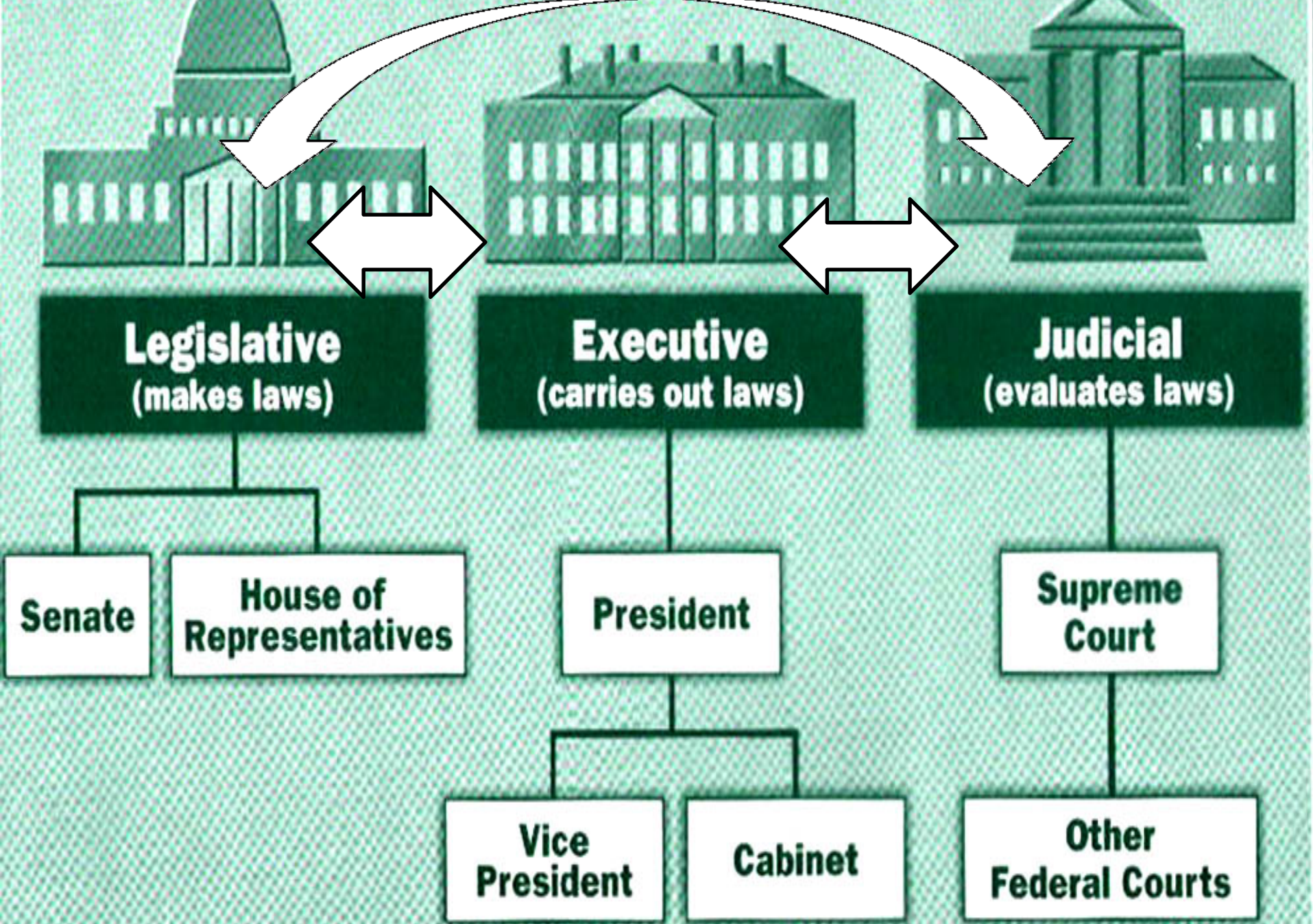


# Checks and Balances

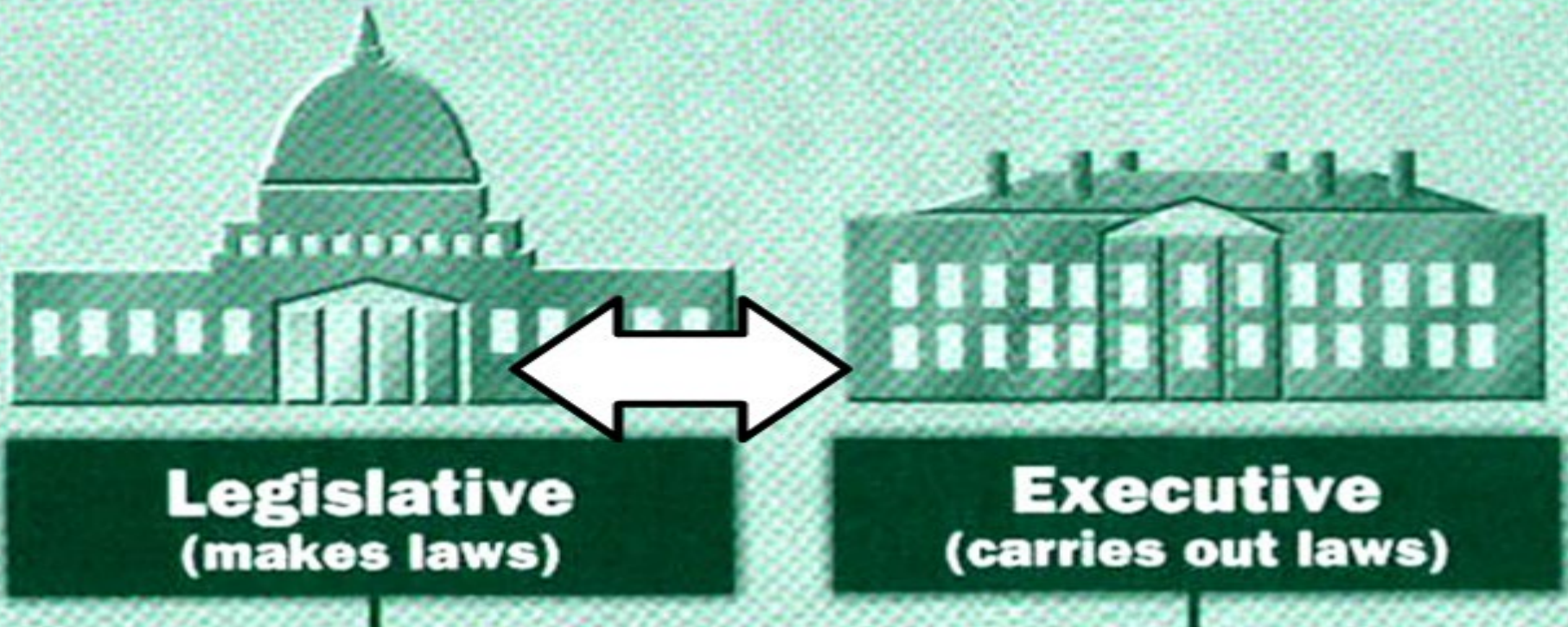
- How do we make sure no one “branch” is greater than the others?
- Checks and Balances
  - The way each “branch” has some power over the others, but also has to answer to the others







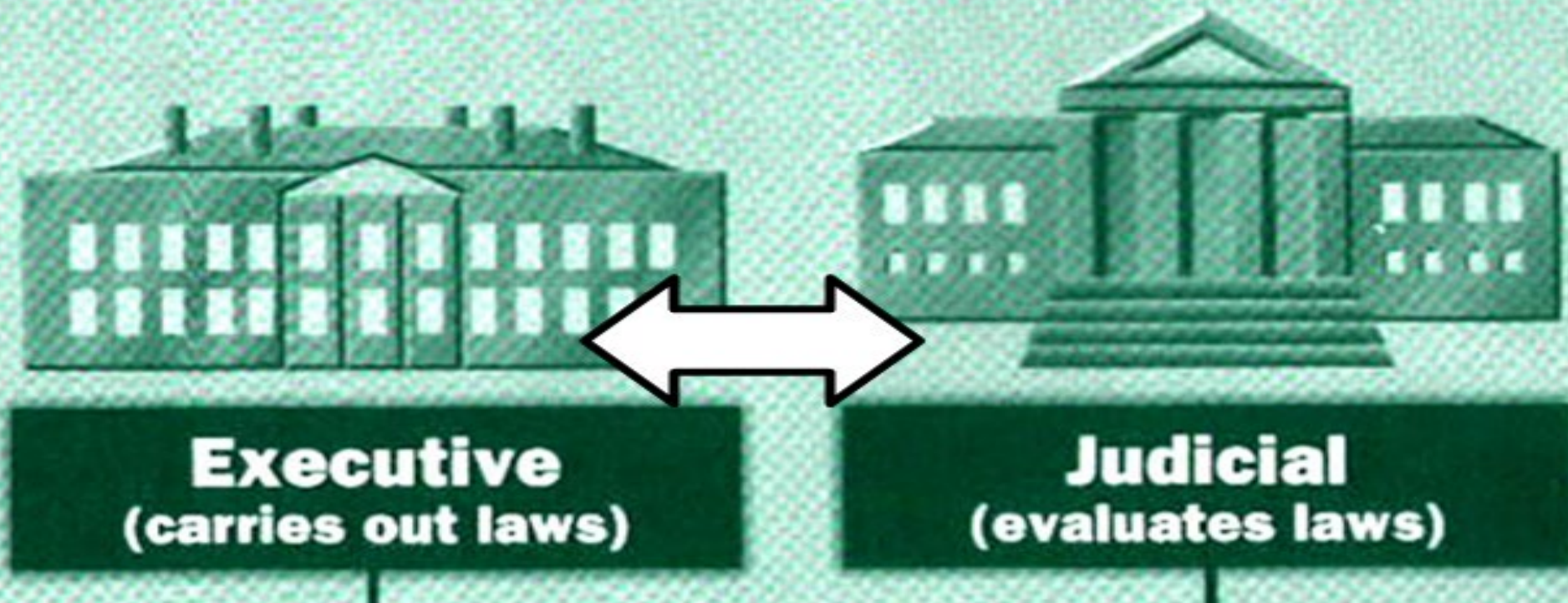




# Legislative and Executive

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

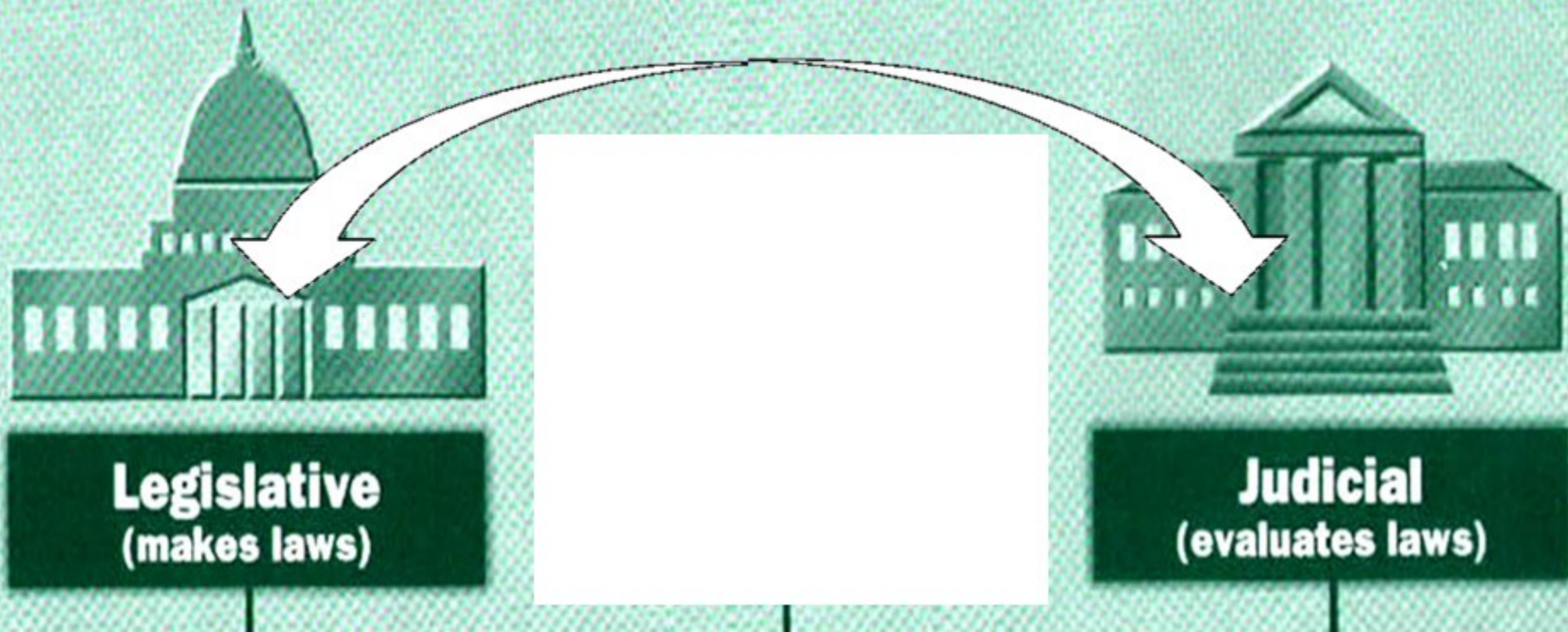




## Executive and Judicial

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

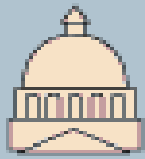




# Legislative and Judicial

- 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 depart-  
ments; independent  
government  
agencies.

The president can veto  
congressional  
legislation.

The Court can declare  
laws unconstitutional.

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

The president  
nominates judges.

The Court can declare  
presidential  
acts unconstitutional.



## 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



# 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”