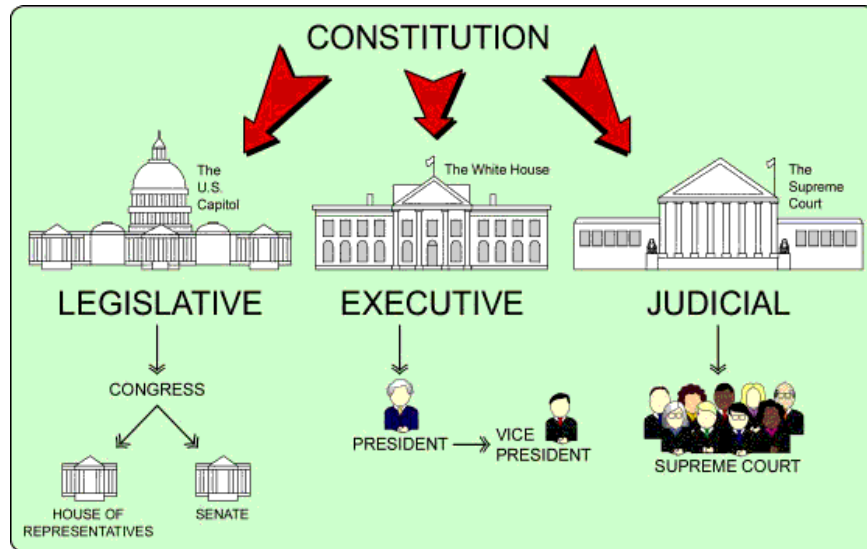



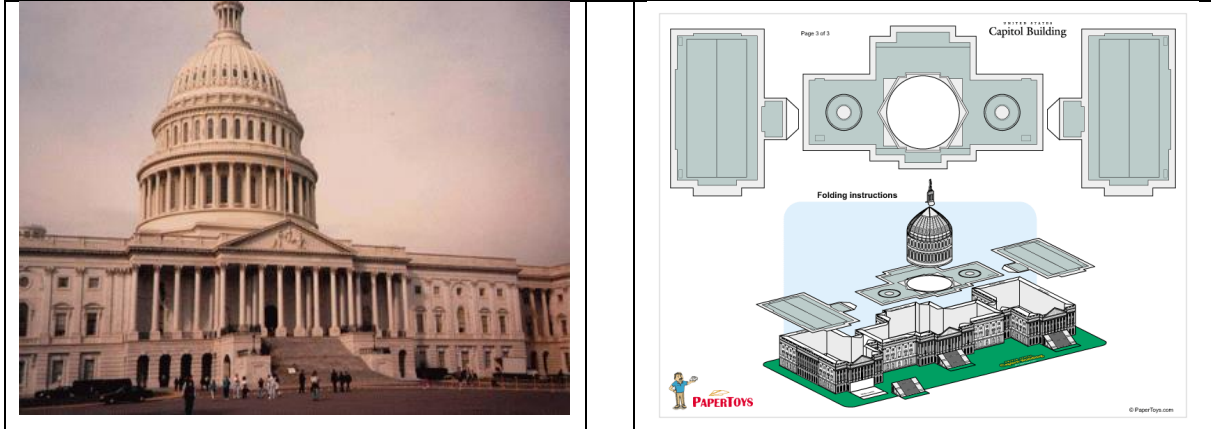


# The Three Branches of Government



What is this Building?	Who works here?	What do they do?	Which branch of government?
<b>Capitol</b>  LEGISLATIVE	<b>Congress</b> , also known as the <b>legislature</b> .	They <b>legislate</b> .  They <b>make new laws</b> .	the <b>legislative</b> branch
<b>White House</b>  EXECUTIVE	The <b>president</b> and his administration (staff).	They <b>execute</b> the government's plan.  They <b>manage</b> the work of the government.	the <b>executive</b> branch
<b>Supreme Court</b>  JUDICIAL	The 9 <b>Justices</b> of the Supreme Court	They reach <b>judicial</b> decisions.  They <b>evaluate</b> and <b>interpret</b> laws and decide if any laws have been broken.	the <b>judicial</b> branch

# Congress (Legislative Branch)



Congress is located in the **Capitol building**, which sits on **Capitol Hill**, in Washington, D.C. The Capitol building is easily recognized by its large, central dome. The Capitol building has two large rooms, called “houses” or “chambers.” These rooms are where **legislators** meet to make new laws.

The “lower house” = **House of Representatives** = 435 members

Members of the House of Representatives are called **representatives** or **congresspersons**. \* Representatives serve for a term of **two years**.

Representation in the House of Representatives is **proportional**. This means that states with large populations get more representatives (and thus more votes) than states with small populations. We call this **proportional representation**.

The “upper house” = **The Senate** = 100 members

Members of the Senate are called **senators**. Senators serve for a term of **six years**.

Representation in the Senate is **equal**. This means that every state gets the same number of senators. (Each state gets two senators; 50 states x 2 senators each = 100 senators total). We call this **equal representation**.

\*The term congressman, congresswoman, or congressperson technically refers to either a member of the House of Representatives or a member of the Senate, since both houses are part of Congress. In common usage, however, the term congressperson refers to a member of the House of Representatives, since members of the senate are called “senators.”

The term “representative” can be equally ambiguous, since technically, senators are also representatives. The context of the word will usually tell you whether the speaker is referring to a member of the House (of Representatives) or to a member of Congress in general.

# The White House (Executive Branch)



Front View



Back View (Rose Garden)

The Executive Branch consists of the president, vice president, the president's **cabinet** (advisors), and the rest of his **administration** (staff).

The president is also known as the **chief executive** and the **commander in chief**.

The president is elected for a term of four years. He may then be re-elected for another four years.

The president's job is to **manage** the government and command the armed forces.

# The Supreme Court (Judicial Branch)



Supreme Court Building

The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court. There are nine judges on the Supreme Court. These judges are called Justices.

The Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president. They can keep their job for the rest of their lives, if they want.