GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND CHECKS CARDS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Carries out and enforces the laws.

Examples:
President, Cabinet, agencies

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Makes the laws.

Examples:
Congress, Senate, House of Representatives

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Interprets the laws and judges if they are constitutional.

Examples:
Supreme Court, federal courts

WHAT IS A CHECK?

A power that one branch uses to limit or restrain another branch.

EXECUTIVE CHECKS

- Veto bills
- Appoint judges
- Enforce laws

LEGISLATIVE CHECKS

- Override vetoes
- Confirm appointments
- Impeach officials
- Control the budget

JUDICIAL CHECKS

- Declare laws unconstitutional
- Review executive actions
- Interpret laws

CITIZENS & THE MEDIA

Inform the public, watch government, and hold officials accountable.

CHECK EXAMPLE

EXECUTIVE CHECKS LEGISLATIVE

The President vetoes a bill passed by Congress.

CHECK EXAMPLE

LEGISLATIVE CHECKS EXECUTIVE

Congress overrides a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote.

CHECK EXAMPLE

JUDICIAL CHECKS LEGISLATIVE

The Supreme Court rules a law passed by Congress is unconstitutional.

CHECK EXAMPLE

JUDICIAL CHECKS EXECUTIVE

A court blocks an executive action that violates the Constitution.

CHECK EXAMPLE

LEGISLATIVE CHECKS JUDICIAL

Congress passes a constitutional amendment to overturn a court decision.

CHECK EXAMPLE

EXECUTIVE CHECKS JUDICIAL

The President appoints federal judges, subject to Senate confirmation.

CHECK EXAMPLE

LEGISLATIVE CHECKS THE BUDGET

Congress controls federal spending through the budget.

CHECK EXAMPLE

CITIZENS CHECK GOVERNMENT

Citizens vote, contact officials, and speak out to influence decisions.