

# SEPARATION OF POWERS

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Analyze the relationships between the three branches of government through the separation of powers.
2. Determine which powers belong to which branch of the government.

TEKS: 8.15D; US.1B; Govt.7D; Govt. 8A-C

Materials Needed: Copies of the powers cards and visuals of the 3 branches.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Copy and cut cards and visuals apart. It is advisable to make a set of cards for every pair of students.
2. Instruct students to place the visuals on their desk and then sort the power cards under the correct visual. The teacher should check pairs responses. Note: Students may need to use a copy of the Constitution to help determine which branch has which power.
3. Discuss what difference they see in the different stacks of cards. Discussion should include that the Legislative Branch has more powers than the other two, reflecting the idea that the Founding Fathers put more power into the hands of elected representatives.

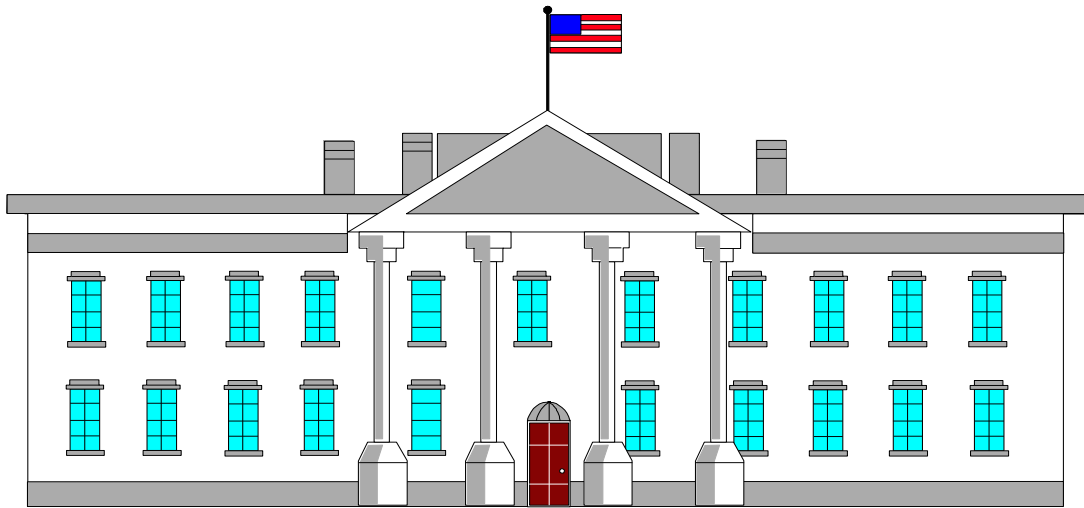
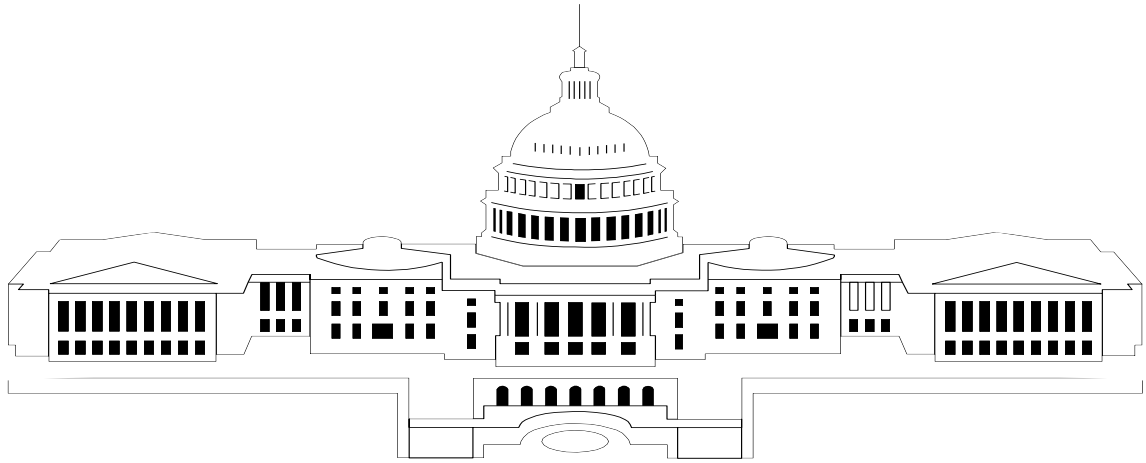
NOTE: This activity is an excellent activity to use prior to the checks and balances activity. Note that visuals are the same.

Suggested Key:

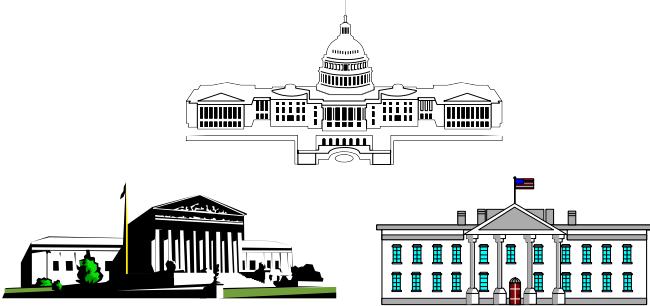
Legislative Branch—to create lower courts, to regulate interstate commerce, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution, to make laws, to choose the President if there is no majority in the electoral college, to increase income taxes, to declare war, to appropriate money, to approve appointments, to ratify (approve) treaties, to override vetoes, to impeach

Executive Branch—to call special sessions, to veto laws, to make treaties, to enforce laws, to pardon those convicted of federal crimes, to enforce (or not enforce) court decisions, to recommend legislation through the State of the Union address, to make appointments, to commit troops into battle.

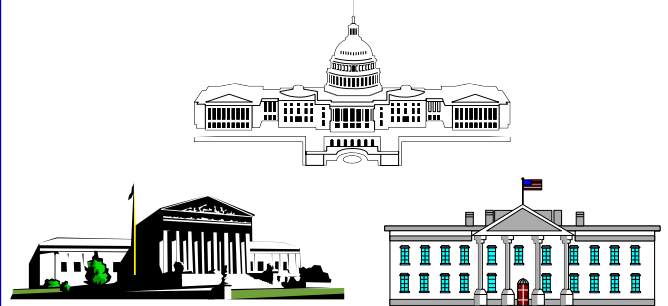
Judicial Branch—to rule as they choose—life term frees them from control of other branches, of judicial review, to settle disputes between two states.



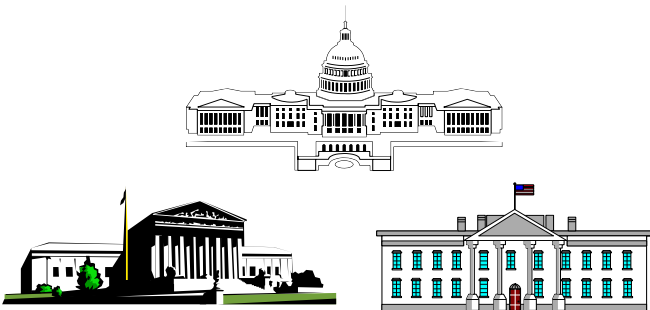
## **Power to Impeach**



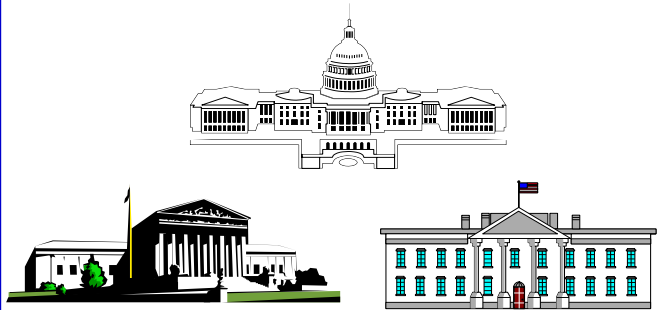
## **Power to declare war**



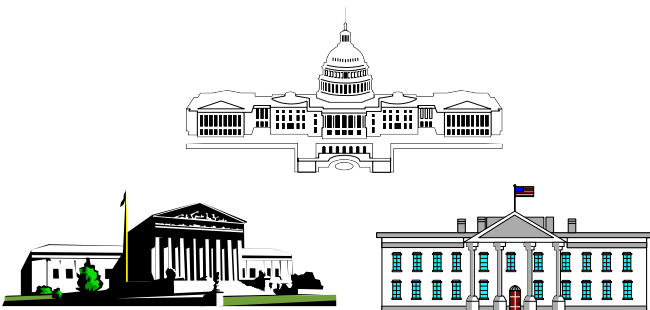
## **Power to override vetoes**



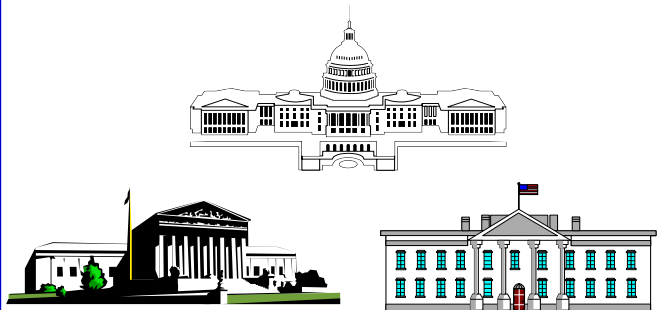
## **Power to appropriate money**



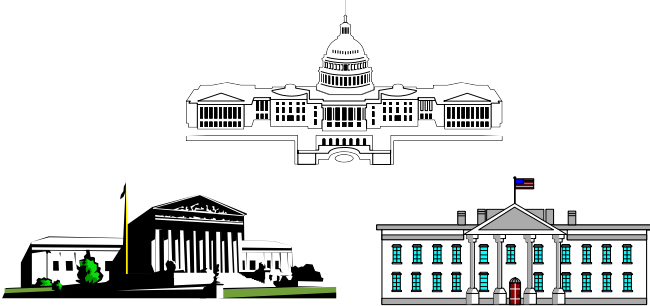
## **Power to approve appointments**



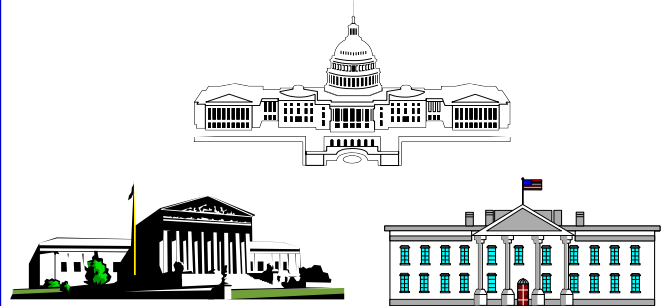
## **Power to ratify (approve) treaties**



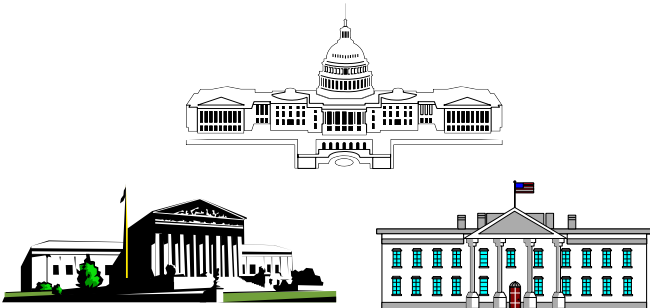
**Power to make laws**



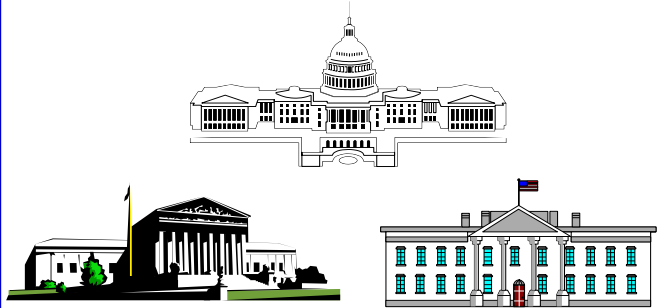
**Power to recommend legislation through the State of the Union Address**



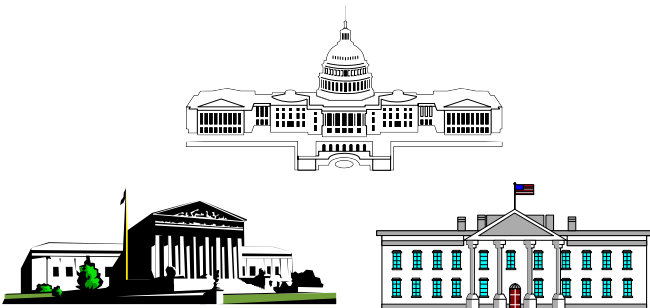
**Power to increase income taxes**



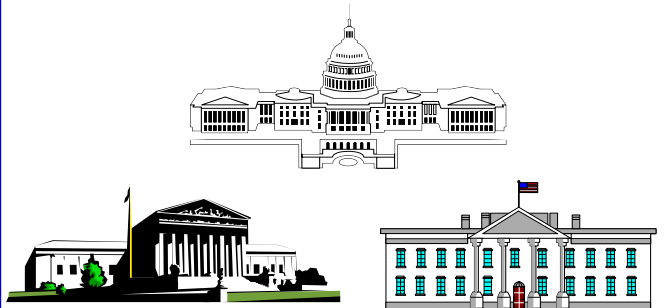
**Power to enforce laws**



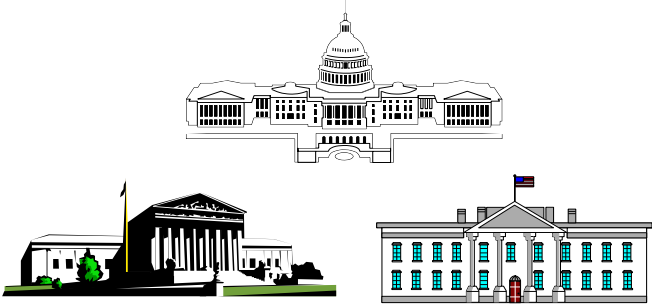
**Power to commit troops into battle**



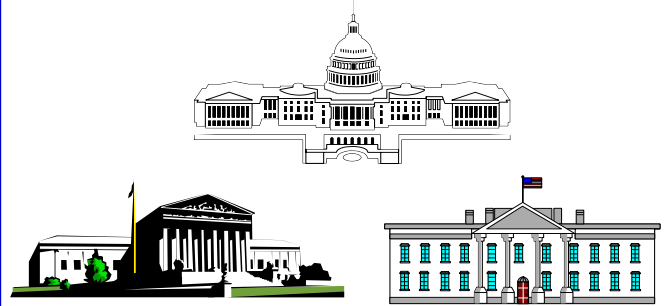
**Power to make appointments**



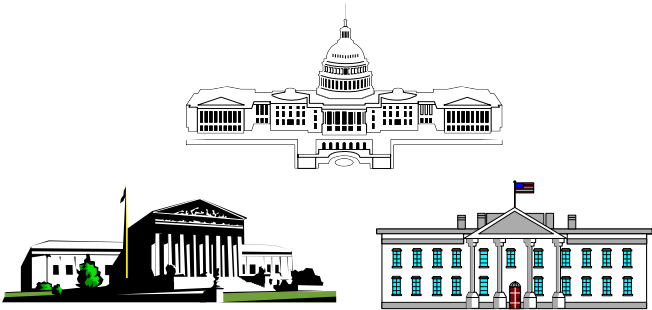
**Power to veto laws**



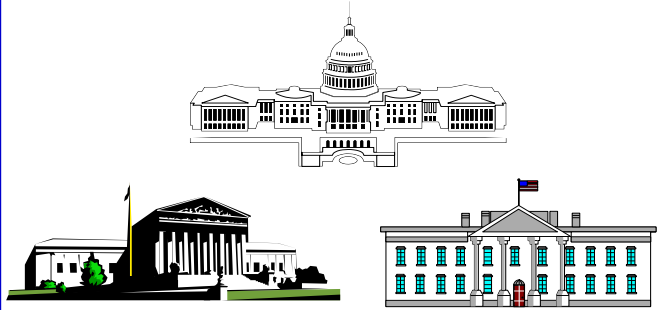
**Power to enforce  
(or not enforce)  
court decisions**



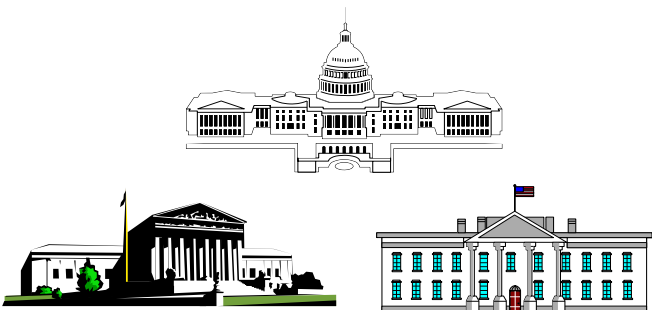
**Power to call  
special sessions**



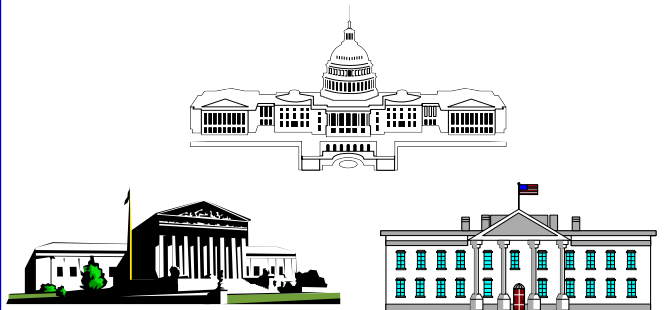
**Power of  
Judicial Review**



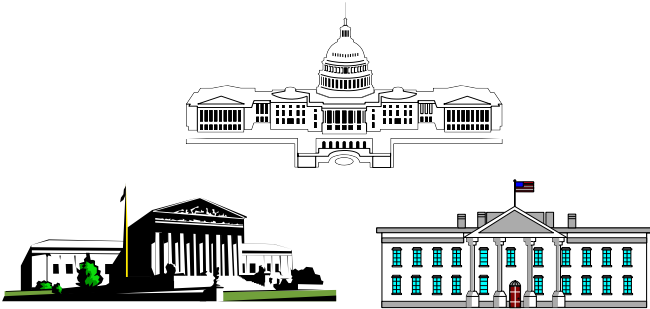
**Power to settle  
disputes  
between two states**



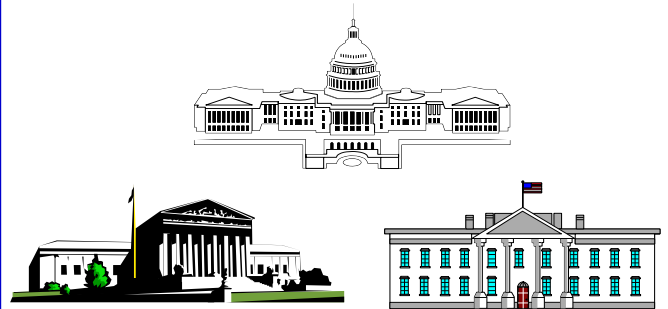
**Power to make  
treaties**



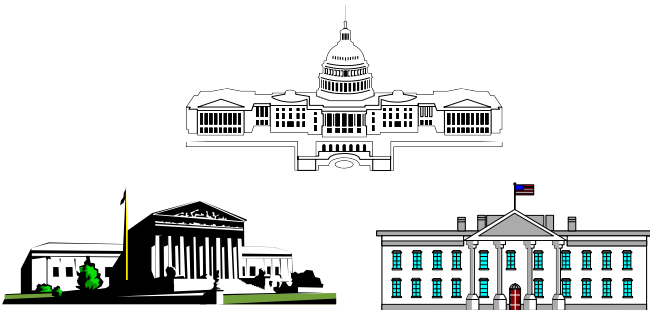
**Power to create  
lower courts**



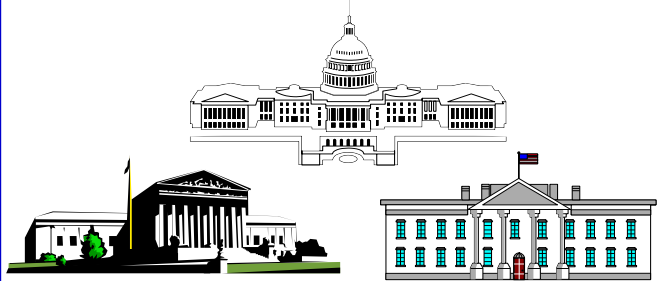
**Power to pardon those  
convicted of federal  
crimes**



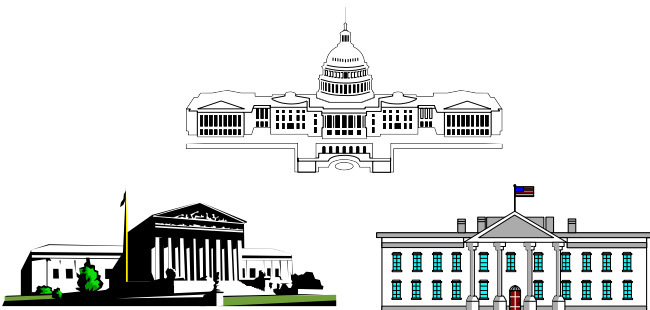
**Power to regulate  
interstate commerce**



**Power to rule as they  
choose—life term  
frees them from  
control of other  
branches**



**Power to choose the  
President if there is no  
majority in the  
electoral college.**



**Power to propose  
amendments to the  
U.S. Constitution**

