

## CHECK POINT POWERS ACTIVITY

### Learning Objective:

1. The student will understand the relationships between the three branches of government through separation of powers and the checks and balances system;
2. Determine how each branch checks the other branches.

**TEKS:** 8.15 D; Govt. 7 D

**Materials needed:** 1 set of arrows and pictures per pair of students (or groups of three)  
1 graphic organizer per student (or students could make their own).

### Teaching Strategy:

1. Prior Instruction on the concept of separation of powers and specific powers belonging to each branch of government would be beneficial before beginning this activity.
2. Copy and cut out the arrows and a visual for each of the three branches. Suggestion to have one set of cards per pair of students.
3. Students should place the visual for the three branches of government on their desk. Using the arrows they will show how one branch is checking the other. The point of the arrow should be toward the branch that is being checked.
4. The teacher should check the student's placement for accuracy and take away the arrows that are incorrect and allow the students to try again.
5. Complete the graphic organizer.

GT/AP Extension: Have student research newspaper articles that demonstrate the concept of checks and balances in action.
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**How does the Constitution limit the power of government?**

**Why would government need to be limited?**

**Branch of Government:**

**Who is in this branch?**

**Major Powers:**

**Location in the Constitution?**

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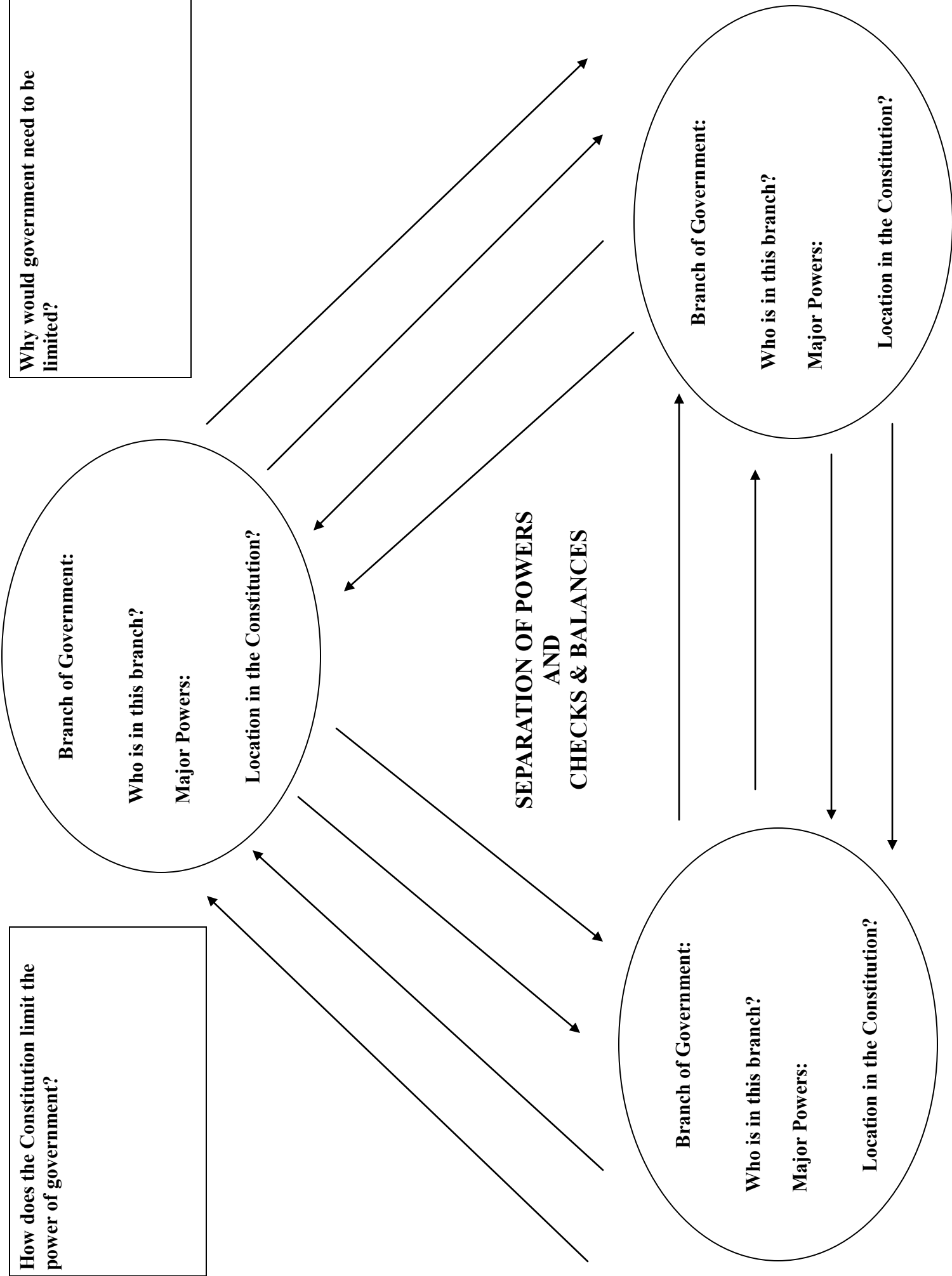
**Branch of Government:**

**Who is in this branch?**

**Major Powers:**

**Location in the Constitution?**

**SEPARATION OF POWERS  
AND  
CHECKS & BALANCES**





**Makes appointments**



**Declares laws unconstitutional**



**Can interpret laws**



**Approves appointments**



**Approves (ratifies) treaties**



**Can declare war**



**Can call special sessions**



**Can impeach**



**Enforces court orders or decisions**



**Can impeach**



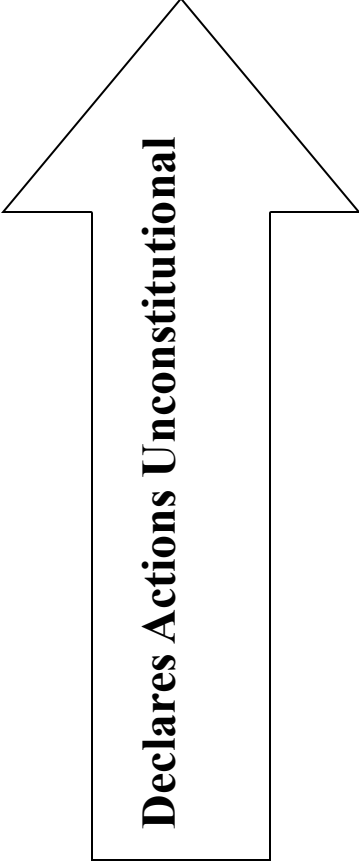
**Can veto laws**



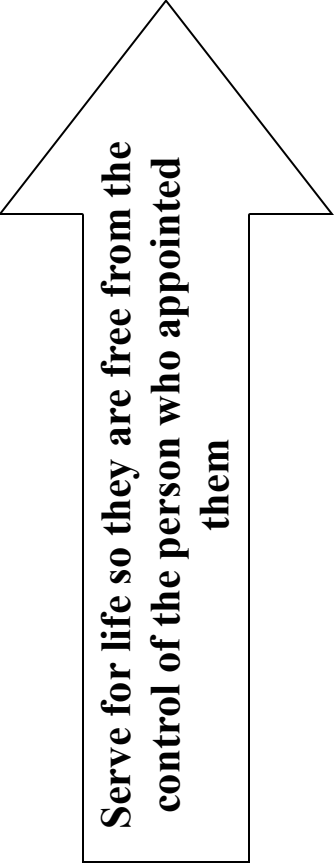
**Can override veto**



**Creates lower courts**



**Declares Actions Unconstitutional**



**Serve for life so they are free from the control of the person who appointed them**



**Approves appointments**

