



## CHECK POINT POWERS

### 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

**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). Note: when copying arrows – run the following pages front to back and the arrows will have the same information on each side.

### 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. It is suggested that you have one set of arrows 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. Let students know that they will need to draw additional arrows for some – it depends on how they label the branches on the graphic organizer.

GT/AP Extension: Have student research newspaper articles that demonstrate the concept of checks and balances in action.

## KEY

### LEGESLATIVE checking EXECUTIVE

- Approves cabinet appointments
- Ratifies treaties
- Can declare war
- Can impeach the president
- Can override veto

### LEGISLATIVE checking JUDICIAL

- Can impeach federal judges
- Approves appointments of federal judges
- Creates lower courts

### EXECUTIVE checking JUDICIAL

- Appoints judges
- Enforces court orders or decisions

### EXECUTIVE checking LEGISLATIVE

- Can veto bills
- Can call special sessions

### JUDICIAL checking LEGISLATIVE

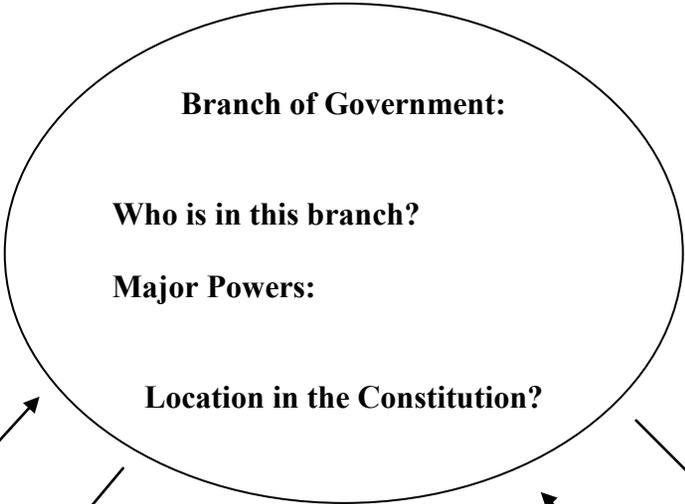
- Can declare congressional laws unconstitutional
- Interprets the meaning of congressional laws

### JUDICIAL checking EXECUTIVE

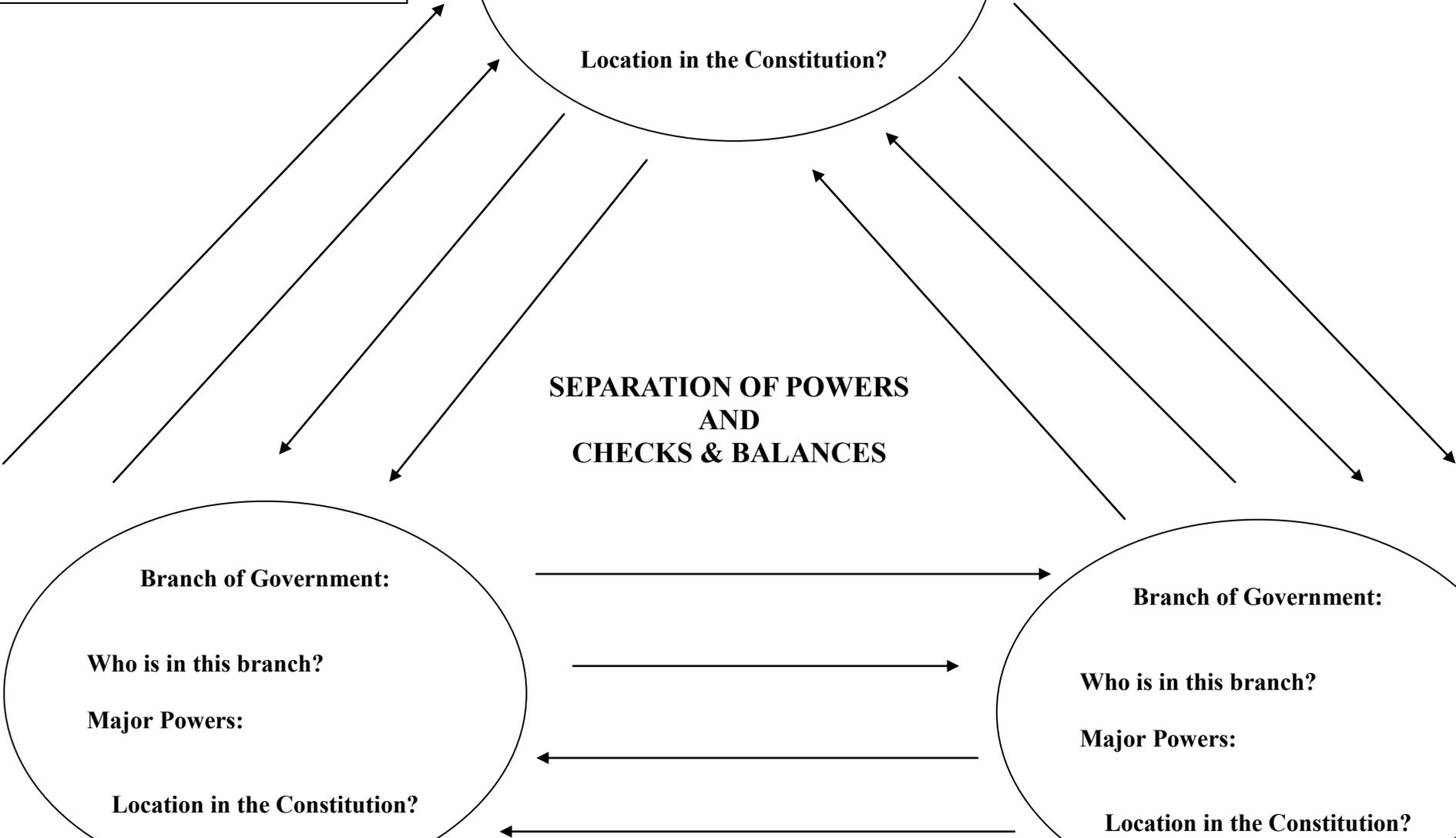
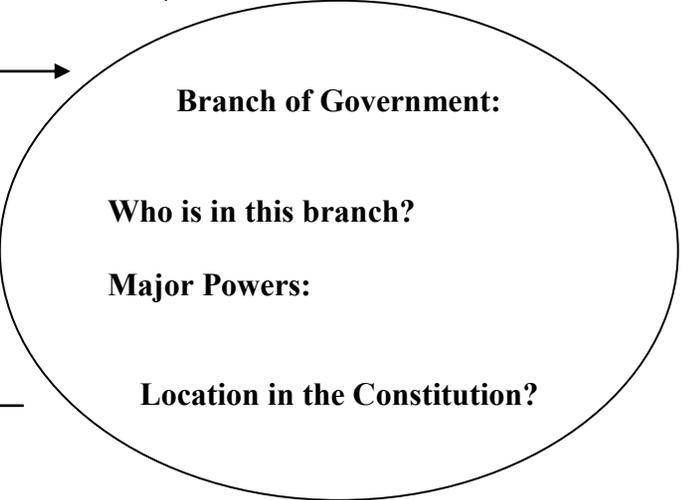
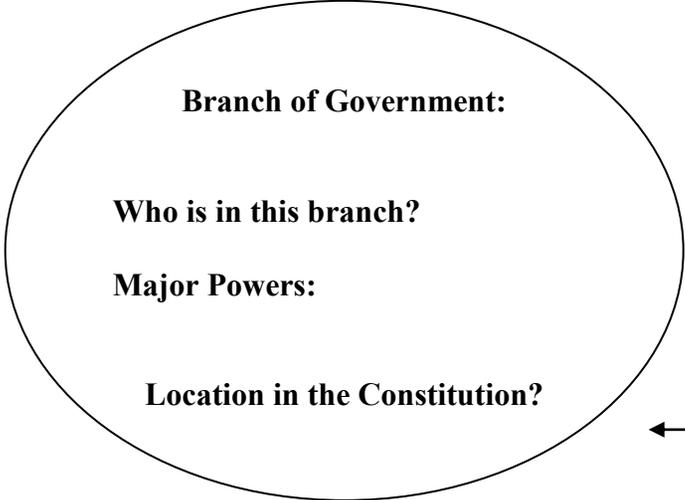
- Judges appointed for life
- Can declare actions unconstitutional

**How does the Constitution limit the power of government?**

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



**SEPARATION OF POWERS  
AND  
CHECKS & BALANCES**

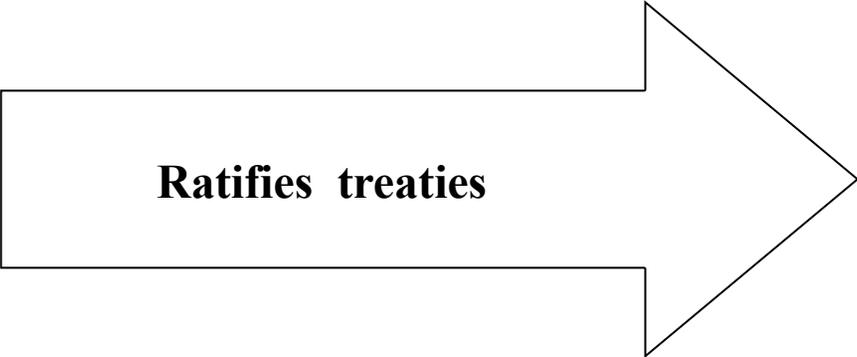




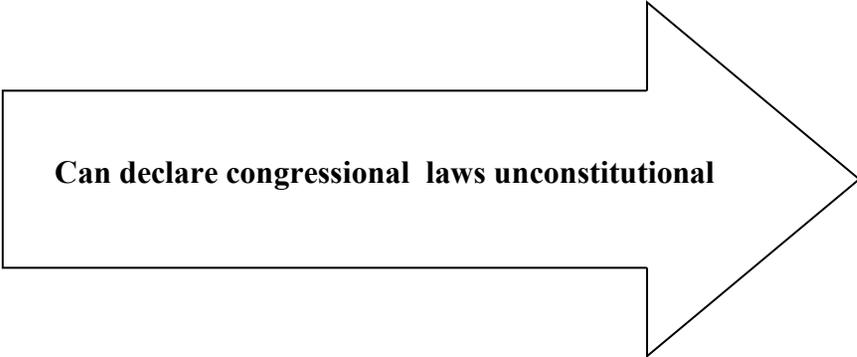
**Approves cabinet appointments**



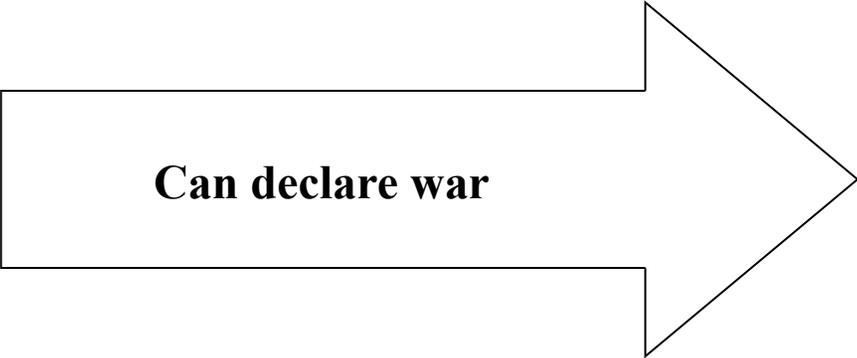
**Appoints judges**



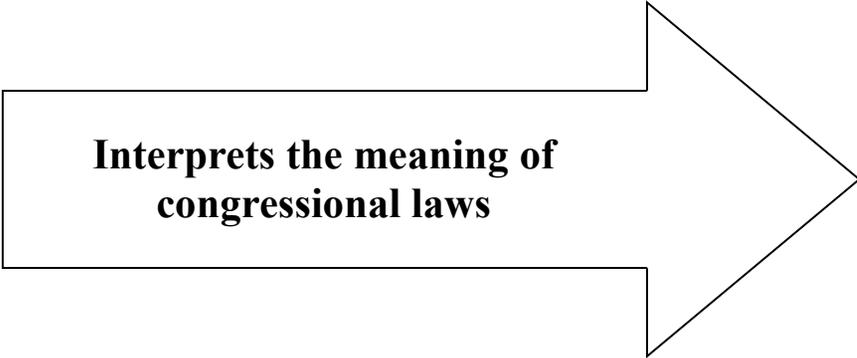
**Ratifies treaties**



**Can declare congressional laws unconstitutional**



**Can declare war**



**Interprets the meaning of congressional laws**

**Can declare war**

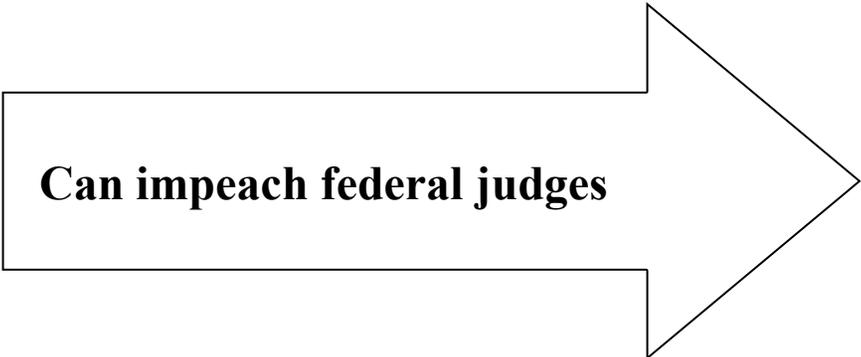
**Interprets the meaning of congressional laws**

**Ratifies treaties**

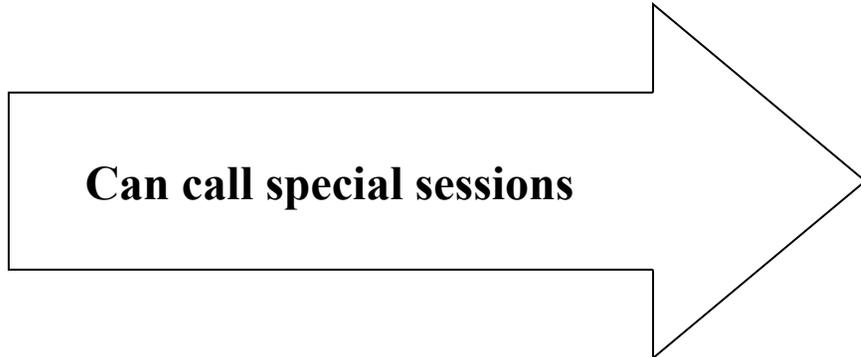
**Can declare congressional laws unconstitutional**

**Approves cabinet appointments**

**Appoints judges**



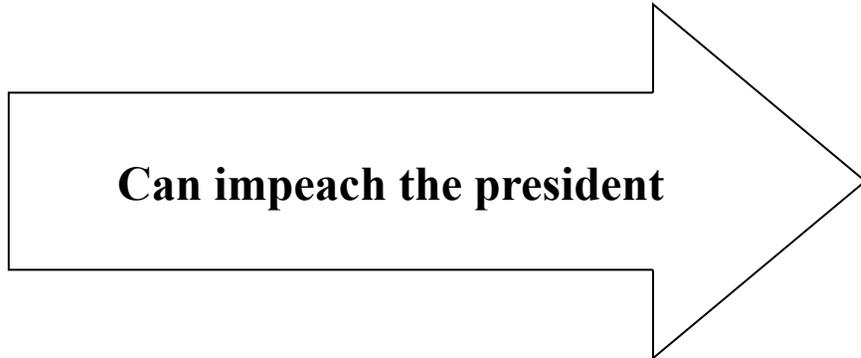
**Can impeach federal judges**



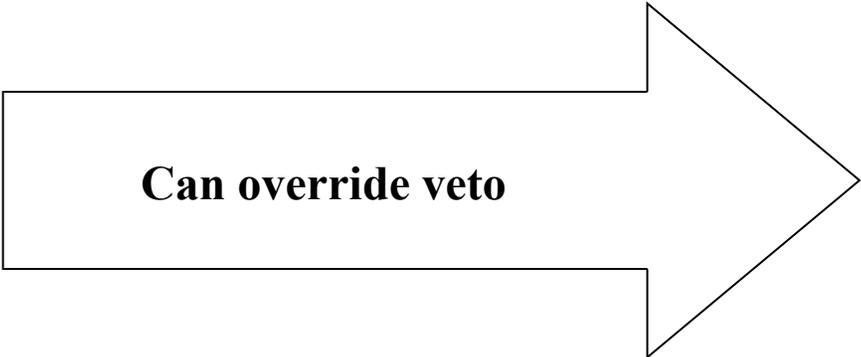
**Can call special sessions**



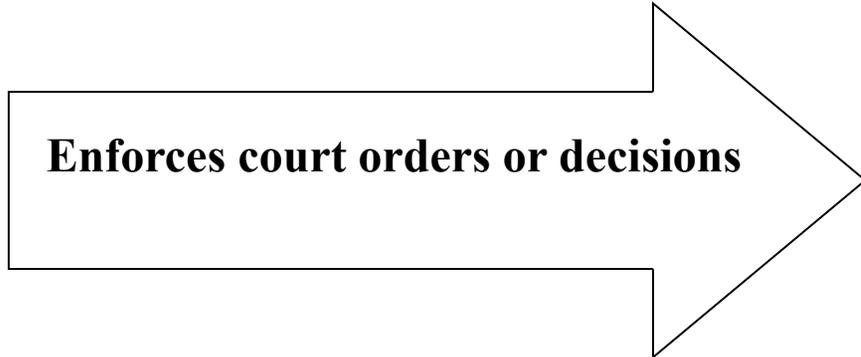
**Can veto bills**



**Can impeach the president**



**Can override veto**



**Enforces court orders or decisions**

**Can override veto**

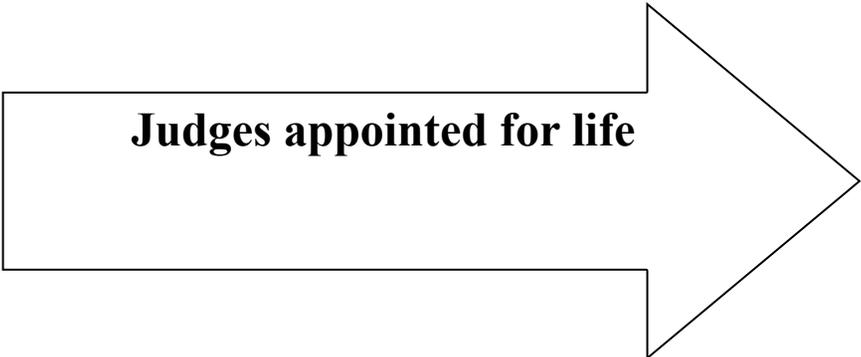
**Enforces court orders or decisions**

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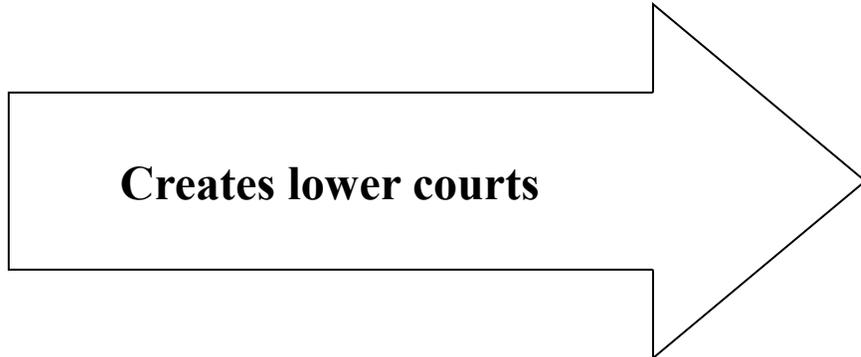
**Can impeach the president**

**Can impeach federal judges**

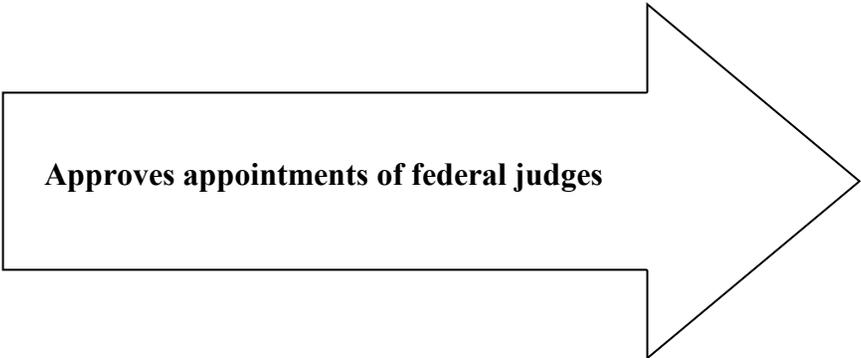
**Can call special sessions**



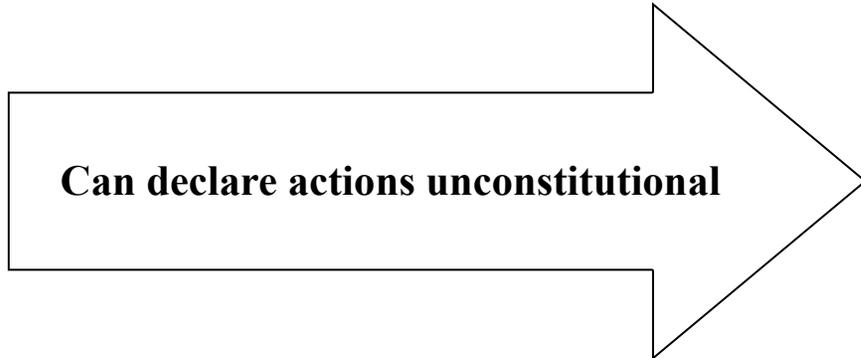
**Judges appointed for life**



**Creates lower courts**



**Approves appointments of federal judges**



**Can declare actions unconstitutional**

