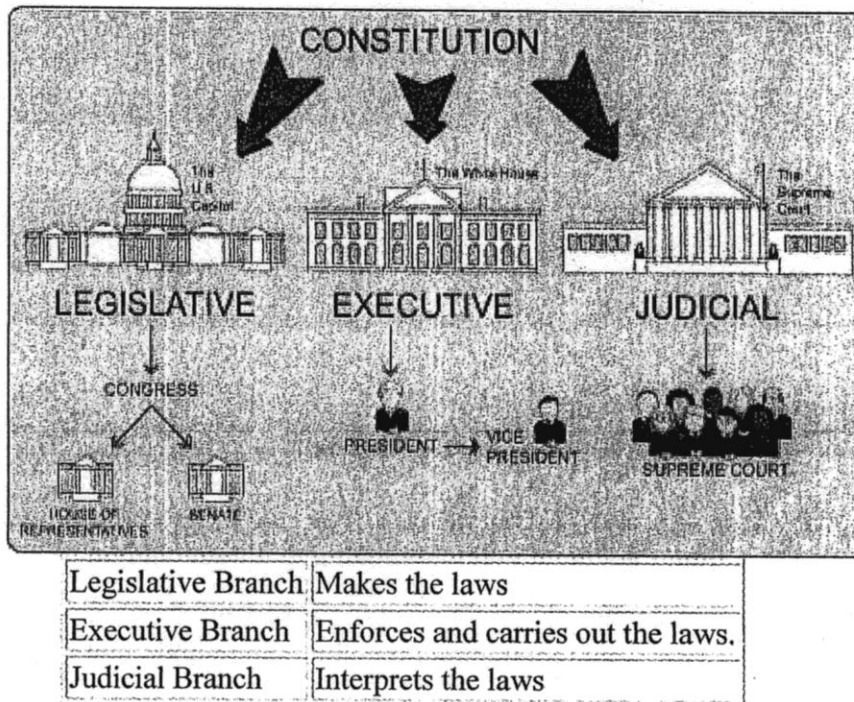


Constitutional Issues: Checks and Balances

How does our system of checks and balances help protect our rights?

The American constitutional system includes a notion known as Checks and Balances, or the Separation of Powers. In this system, several branches of government are created and power is shared between them. At the same time, the powers of one branch can be challenged by another branch. This is the system of checks and balances.



For example:

- Congress may pass laws, but the President can veto them.
- The President can veto laws, but Congress can override the veto with a 2/3 vote.
- The President and Congress may agree on a law, but the Supreme Court can declare a law unconstitutional.
- The President can appoint Judges and other government officials, but Senate must approve them.
- Supreme Court judges have life terms, but they can be impeached.

Sources:

<http://www.socialstudieshelp.com/>

<http://www.usconstitution.net/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers

