

COMMON CORE
Lessons & Activities

Branches of **GOVERNMENT**

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

REPRODUCIBLE

One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!



About this Book

This Common Core Lessons and Activities Book allows you to immediately meet new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, as well as Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies. It is designed to supplement your Social Studies resources, adding new Common Core rigor, analysis, writing, inference, text-dependent questions, and more into your daily instruction.

How to Use this Book:

- Work through the lessons and activities as a class to teach your students higher-order thinking, analysis, and 21st century skills necessary to meet new Common Core expectations.
- Allow students to work through the lessons independently to build and practice these new skills.
- Include technology, collaboration, presentation, and discussion in the activities as you desire—you can decide how in-depth to go.
- Watch your class develop new abilities to meet the rigor of Common Core State Standards, right before your eyes!

Tips:

- Use some of the pages—or use them all—based on your grade, your students, your curriculum, and your needs.
- Use the pages at their current size, or if you prefer them to be 8-1/2" x 11", enlarge them 125% on your copy machine.
- Download graphic organizers labeled “GO” in the Table of Contents by going to: www.gallopade.com/client/go
- Use the correlations grid to easily see which Common Core standards are covered in each lesson.

Common Core Lessons & Activities: Branches of Government

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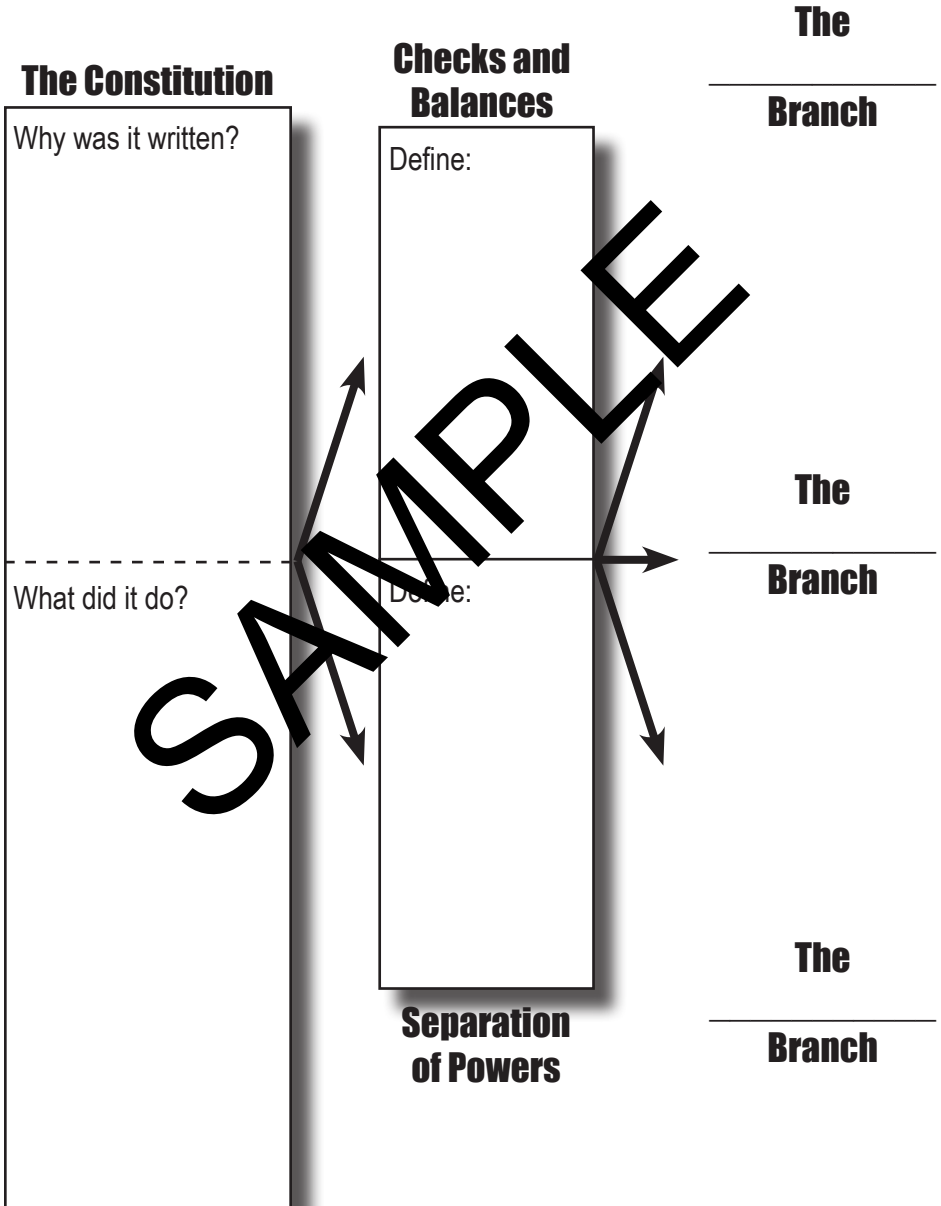
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G: Includes Graphic Organizer

GO: Graphic Organizer is also available 8½" x 11" online
download at www.gallopade.com/client/go
(numbers above correspond to the graphic organizer numbers online)

Three Branches Flowchart

Complete the graphic organizer with information about the three branches of government.



Who?

Does What?

Branch at the

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

| |
|----------------|
| National Level |
| State Level |
| Local Level |

Who?

Does What?

Branch at the

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

| |
|----------------|
| National Level |
| State Level |
| Local Level |

Who?

Does What?

Branch at the

| | |
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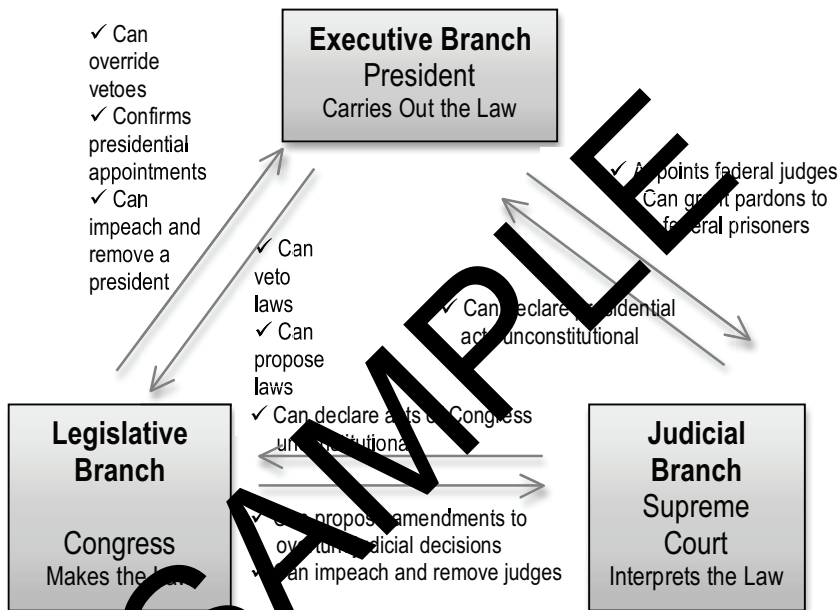
| |
|----------------|
| National Level |
| State Level |
| Local Level |

DIAGRAM ANALYSIS

Checks & Balances

The Constitution separates the government into three branches and assigns powers to each. Some of these powers are meant to keep the branches from abusing their power through a system of checks and balances.

Use information from the diagram to complete the cause and effect graphic organizer.



| Cause | Effect | Possible Outcomes |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| The President vetoes a bill passed by Congress. | | |
| A Supreme Court justice retires from the court. | | |
| The President issues a Presidential act. | | |
| The President appoints a new Secretary of State. | | |

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

Appointing a Justice

This 1930 political cartoon depicts President Hoover trying to decide whom to nominate for Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court after the Senate rejected his first choice.

Analyze the cartoon and answer the questions.



Courtesy of The National Archives

1. A. What branch of government is represented by arrow A?
B. What branch of government is represented by arrow B?
2. What power is A exercising? What power is B exercising?
3. What can you infer about B's opinion of A? Why?
4. What is the main message of this cartoon? What words or symbols helped you reach your conclusion?
5. What can you infer about the cartoonists' opinion of President Hoover? Cite details from the cartoon to support your answer.