

★ CHECKS AND BALANCES ★

To make sure that no one branch of government became too powerful, the framers gave each branch specific powers. In addition, each branch of government has some control over the actions of the other branches. The control one branch has over another is called the system of *checks and balances*. This system is illustrated in the diagram on this page.

Powers of the Legislative Branch (Congress)

Major power — *Makes the laws*

Powers over the Executive

- Can override the President's veto
 - Can impeach and remove the President
 - Can refuse to confirm presidential appointment
 - Can refuse to ratify presidential treaties
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Powers over the Judicial

- Can create lower federal courts
 - Can refuse to confirm judicial appointments
 - Can propose constitutional amendments
 - Can impeach and remove judges
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Powers of the Executive Branch (President)

Major Power — *Carries out the laws*

Powers over the Congress

- Can veto bills
 - Can call special sessions of Congress
 - Can recommend laws
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Powers over the Judicial

- Appoints Supreme Court and federal judges
 - Can grant reprieves and pardons
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Powers of the Judicial Branch (Supreme Court)

Major Powers — *Interprets the laws*
— *Punishes lawbreakers*

Powers over the Congress

- Can declare laws unconstitutional
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Powers over the Executive

- Can rule that laws or executive acts are unconstitutional
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