

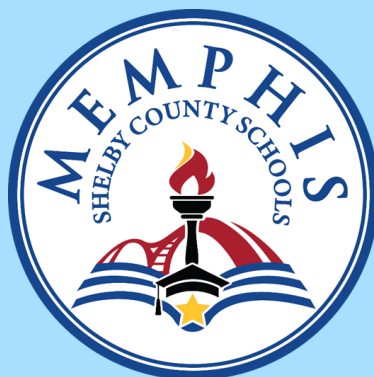


# SOCIAL STUDIES



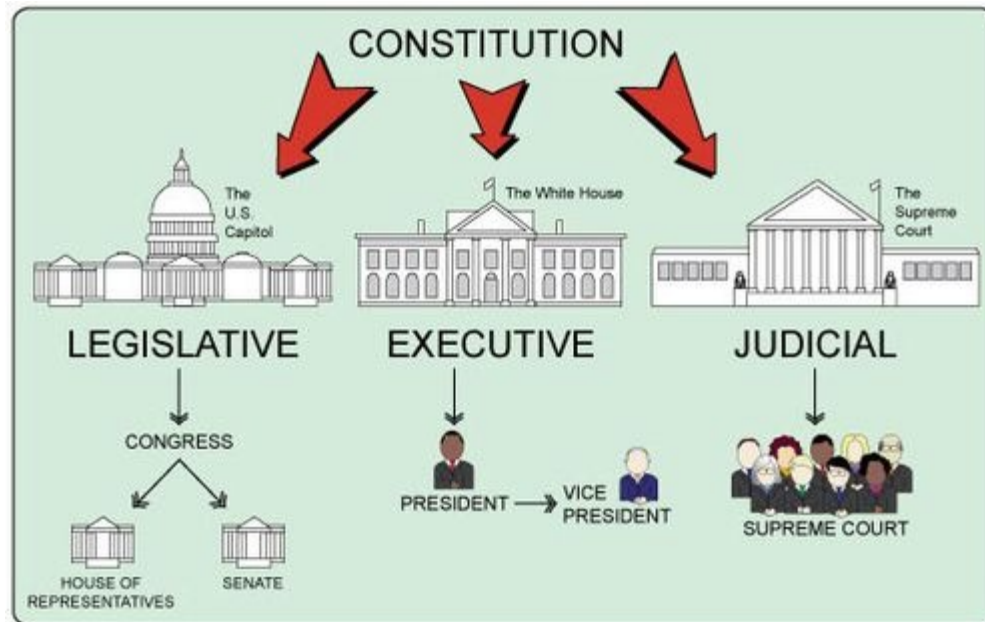
## 3RD GRADE

### INCLEMENT WEATHER PACKET



# The Three Branches of Government

by ReadWorks



The United States Constitution was written over two hundred years ago. It explains how the United States government should work. The people who wrote the Constitution did not want one person or group to have too much power. That was why they divided the government into three parts, known as branches.

The branches are the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Each branch has its own responsibilities. The branches work together, but they also check each other to make sure no branch has too much power.

The legislative branch includes the United States Congress. Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Voters in each state elect their representation in the House and their senators. Those men and women go to Washington, D.C., to make laws.

The executive branch has the power to carry out the laws. It includes the

president, the vice president, and their group of advisers called the Cabinet. Every four years, Americans vote to elect a president and a vice president.

The judicial branch decides on the meanings of the laws and whether laws break the rules of the Constitution. This branch includes the United States Supreme Court. Nine justices serve on the Supreme Court. The president appoints the justices, and the Senate approves them. The justices' job is to decide if the country's laws go against the Constitution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the three branches of the U.S. government?

- A. Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Senate
- B. the president, the House of Representatives, and the Senate
- C. legislative, executive, and judicial

2. This article describes the three branches of government and their responsibilities. Which branch does it describe first?

- A. the executive branch
- B. the judicial branch
- C. the legislative branch

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"The people who wrote the Constitution did not want one person or group to have too much power. That was why they divided the government into three parts, known as branches."

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. The three branches of the government do not have the same amount of power.
- B. The people who wrote the Constitution wanted every American to help make laws.
- C. The people who wrote the Constitution did not want to have just one branch of government.

4. Which is an example of how one branch of government can be affected by the other branches?

- A. The executive branch includes the president, the vice president, and the Cabinet.
- B. Justices on the Supreme Court are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate.
- C. Voters in each state elect their representation in the House and their senators to go to Congress.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. The U.S. Constitution is the law of the land, and it lays out rules for the government and rights for the American people.
- B. The judicial branch decides on the meanings of the laws and whether laws break the rules of the U.S. Constitution.
- C. The U.S. Constitution says that the country must have a Congress, a Supreme Court, and a president.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"The United States Constitution was written over two hundred years ago. It explains how the United States government should work. The people who wrote the Constitution did not want one person or group to have too much power. That was why they divided the government into three parts, known as branches."

Why does the author begin this article by talking about the U.S. Constitution?

- A. to give the reader background information about why there are three branches of government
- B. to explain to the reader why the U.S. Constitution is the most important piece of writing in history
- C. to help the reader learn more about the history of the United States

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The legislative branch of government has the power to make laws, \_\_\_\_\_ the executive branch carries those laws out.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

**8.** Why did the people who wrote the Constitution divide the government into three branches?

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**9.** How do Supreme Court justices get their jobs?

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**10.** Do the three branches of government have to work together for the government to be successful? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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## An American Leader

# The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.

**King was a leader who dreamed of a better world.**

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Each January, Americans honor him with a holiday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

## Unfair Laws



King gives "I Have a Dream" speech to a large crowd in Washington, D.C.  
*AP Images*

When King was growing up, the laws in some places were unfair. Those laws treated African American people differently from white people. African Americans were not allowed to go to the same schools as white students. Many were also forced to sit in the back of buses.

## King Had a Dream

In the 1950s and 1960s, King worked to change unfair laws. He led peaceful marches and gave many speeches. In 1963, King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. He said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."



King's birth home is in Atlanta, Georgia. Here he is at age 6.

*House: James Randklev/Corbis;  
Young Martin Luther King: Martin Luther King Family*

## Equal Rights

As a result of King's hard work, equal rights laws were passed. Those laws make sure that all Americans are treated fairly and equally.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. During which month do Americans celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day?
  - A. January
  - B. February
  - C. March
  
2. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work to change unfair laws was caused by a desire for people to be treated fairly. What was an effect of King's work?
  - A. Martin Luther King Jr. led marches and gave speeches.
  - B. Equal rights laws were passed, so Americans are treated fairly.
  - C. African Americans and whites went to separate schools.
  
3. African Americans were treated unfairly. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?
  - A. African Americans were forced to sit in the back of buses.
  - B. Martin Luther King Jr. led marches and gave speeches.
  - C. Americans honor Martin Luther King Jr. with a holiday.
  
4. Read the following sentence from King's speech: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

How did Martin Luther King Jr. feel about the future of America?

- A. scared
  - B. angry
  - C. hopeful
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5. What is this passage mostly about?
    - A. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech
    - B. why African Americans were treated differently than white people
    - C. how Martin Luther King Jr. helped change unfair laws.

**6.** Read the following sentences: "Each January, Americans honor him with a holiday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated on the third Monday in January."

Why does the author begin the passage this way?

- A. to tell the reader about Martin Luther King Jr.'s life
- B. to tell the reader why we honor Martin Luther King Jr.
- C. to tell the reader about Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**7.** Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_ laws in some parts of the United States were unfair, African Americans had to sit in the back of buses.

- A. So
- B. Because
- C. But

**8.** What kind of marches did Martin Luther King Jr. lead?

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**9.** How were African Americans treated differently from white people?

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**10.** Why do Americans celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

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# The Mighty Mississippi

by Kate Paixão



The Mississippi River is one of the longest rivers in the world. It flows from north to south through the United States.

The Mississippi begins in the northern U.S. state of Minnesota. The river then goes south for more than two thousand miles to the state of Louisiana. There, the mighty Mississippi empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Before the United States was a country, different Native peoples had depended on the Mississippi for thousands of years. Some of these peoples were the Anishinaabe people, Dakota people, and Natchez people. Many

Native people traveled on the river by boat. They also ate fish that lived in the water. The name Mississippi came from the Anishinaabe people. They called the river *Misi-ziibi*, which means "long river."

Today, some Native people continue to use the Mississippi River. Many other people use the Mississippi, too. Boats bring important items up and down the river daily. But it is more than just a highway for boats. The Mississippi also supports millions of people. At least fifty cities rely on the river for their daily water supply. The Mississippi is even home to all kinds of animals. More than 250 types of fish and at least 50 kinds of mammals live along the river.

This long river is a very important river!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, where does the Mississippi River flow?

- A. through the United States
- B. through only Louisiana
- C. through the Gulf of Mexico

2. What does the author describe in the second paragraph?

- A. the way people today use the Mississippi River
- B. the path of the Mississippi River
- C. the way Native peoples used the Mississippi River

3. Read this sentence from the text.

Before the United States was a country, different Native peoples had depended on the Mississippi for thousands of years.

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A. "Today, some Native people continue to use the Mississippi River. Many other people use the Mississippi, too."
- B. "The name Mississippi came from the Anishinaabe people. They called the river *Misi-zibi*, which means 'long river.'"
- C. "Many Native people traveled on the river by boat. They also ate fish that lived in the water."

4. Based on the text, what do Native people from before the U.S. was a country and people today who live near the Mississippi River have in common?

- A. use of the Mississippi River to get fish for eating
- B. dependence on the Mississippi River in more than one way
- C. building of large cities around the Mississippi River

5. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. Native people depended on the Mississippi River for thousands of years.
- B. The Mississippi River has been a very important river for a long time, and still is today.
- C. The Mississippi River is mostly important because it begins in the state of Minnesota.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

The Mississippi also supports millions of people. At least fifty cities rely on the river for their daily water supply.

What does the sentence "The Mississippi also supports millions of people" mean?

- A. The Mississippi is not important to millions of people.
- B. The Mississippi helps millions of people live.
- C. The Mississippi causes trouble for millions of people.

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Different Native peoples used the Mississippi River to get food \_\_\_\_\_ cities used the Mississippi River to get drinking water.

- A. when
- B. after
- C. before

8. According to the text, how does the Mississippi River today help people who want to move important items from place to place?

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**9.** Based on the text, how do some cities today depend on the Mississippi River?

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**10.** How might people today be affected if the Mississippi River suddenly dried up? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# What Is a Budget?

by Susan LaBella



How much does your favorite snack cost? How many dollars do you spend each week? Can you spend less money to save some?

Making a budget is a good way to answer those questions.

A budget is a plan for how to spend and save money.

Companies and countries have budgets to manage their spending.

Putting together a budget can help you, too. Do you get a weekly allowance? That is a regular amount of money you might receive to pay for

things such as snacks, games, and toys. What would happen to a boy who got his allowance on Monday and spent it all by Wednesday? He would not have any money to spend for the rest of the week!

You can avoid that problem by following a budget. First, figure out how much you have to spend. Include money you earn, gifts you receive, and money you have already saved. Next, write down what you spend money on each week.

Maybe you will find you are spending a lot on snacks. Cutting down would help you save some money every week. You could then use your savings for something special. That is the benefit of a budget!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a plan for how to spend and save money?
  - A. a gift
  - B. a budget
  - C. a company
  
2. The article lists a sequence of steps you can take to follow a budget. What is the first step?
  - A. figuring out how much you have to spend
  - B. cutting down on spending to help save money every week
  - C. writing down what you spend money on each week
  
3. The author believes that saving money is better than spending all your money at once.

What evidence from the article best supports this conclusion?

- A. "Maybe you will find you are spending a lot on snacks. Cutting down would help you save some money every week. You could then use your savings for something special. That is the benefit of a budget!"
  - B. "Do you get a weekly allowance? That is a regular amount of money you might receive to pay for things such as snacks, games, and toys. What would happen to a boy who got his allowance on Monday and spent it all by Wednesday?"
  - C. "How much does your favorite snack cost? How many dollars do you spend each week? Can you spend less money to save some?"
4. Based on the information in the article, why might a person want to save money?
    - A. to buy something special
    - B. to answer questions about spending
    - C. to receive an allowance

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. One way to save money is to buy fewer snacks.
- B. Putting together a budget can help you save money.
- C. A boy who gets his allowance on Monday and spends it all by Wednesday will not have any money for the rest of the week.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"Maybe you will find you are spending a lot on snacks. Cutting down would help you save some money every week. You could then use your savings for something special. That is the benefit of a budget!"

What does the phrase "cutting down" mean here?

- A. chopping off
- B. spending more
- C. spending less

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

A boy may not have any savings \_\_\_\_\_ he has spent all his money on snacks.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. What do budgets help companies manage?

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**9.** Based on the information in the article, what is one benefit of a budget?

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**10.** Is saving money better than spending money? Support your answer with evidence from the article.

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