Concept Map: Three branches of Government!

**WebQuest Description:** Students will learn about the three branches of U.S. Government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial). Students are expected to learn the responsibilities of each branch and who the members of each branch are.

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Judicial branch, Executive branch, Legislative branch, and Government

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**Introduction**

Today, you decide that you want to run for an elected office but you will want to review what the three branches of government are so you can choose which office would best match your beliefs as well as your personality. You should gather as much information as you can about each branch of government, its responsibilities, and its elected members so you can choose which of the three branches you would like to be a part of. Executive, Legislative, or Judicial? Which will you choose!

**Tasks**

The purpose of this WebQuest is for you to learn about the three branches of U.S. Government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) and their responsibilities. You and your partner will have a blank poster and markers. Create a concept map describing what you learned about the three branches of government. Label the branches, the members and their responsibilities or duties in your Social Studies notebook. Then, insert the needed information into your concept map. You will begin by following the links as you gather information for your concept map on the next section of the webquest: Process. Think about the following question: Which branch of the U.S. government are you most interested in?

**Process**

Step 1: Find your partner and have your Social Studies notebook, blank poster, and markers ready! Step 2: You and your partner will only use the links below to gather the information you need. Gather as much information as you can in your Social Studies notebook and each student should be taking notes. Step 3: Test what you have learned by playing the branches of government game. Look for the link that says, "Game." Step 4: Using your poster, create a concept map that shows what you and your partner have learned about the three branches of government. Use your notes to make sure you include accurate information about the members and responsibilities for each branch. Please remember to include headings and colorful illustrations that represent each of the three branches of government. Step 5: Decide what elected office you would like to run and then whisper it to your partner. Think about which branch best matches your beliefs as well as your personality.

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**Evaluation**

This is how your work will be graded: 4 categories and each one is worth 15 Points Total points possible: 60 Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Minimal Effort (6 Points)</th>
<th>Developing Effort (9 Points)</th>
<th>Very Good Effort (12 Points)</th>
<th>Exemplary Effort (15 points)</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Game Play</td>
<td>Did not participate in WebQuest assignment. The game was not played by either partner.</td>
<td>Some participation in WebQuest assignment. The game only started. Minimal effort displayed.</td>
<td>Participated in all areas of the WebQuest with a partner. Game was started but never finished. Got through most of the game though.</td>
<td>Actively engaged and shared ideas with partner on the WebQuest assignment. Both partners completed the entire game together.</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Missing written notes.</td>
<td>Missing critical notes on certain branches and work is poorly written.</td>
<td>Took satisfactory notes on the three branches of government. Has most important details for each branch.</td>
<td>Took detailed notes on three branches of government (i.e. responsibilities, branch name, specific details, and etc.). Notes are organized and easy to follow.</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You have completed your concept map. You and your partner will do a gallery walk where you will walk around the class and visit concept maps created by your classmates. Your concept map will be posted around the classroom and each person will write at least two positive comments on a sticky note and place it near each concept map you visited. You may start setting up your concept maps. Enjoy!

### Standards

**Prior Knowledge:** Students were introduced the three branches of government in the third grade.

**NCSS Standards**

VI. Power, Authority, & Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance, so that the learner can:

b. explain the purpose of government;

e. distinguish among local, state, and national government and identify representative leaders at these levels such as mayor, governor, and president;

**Arizona Standards**

Strand 3: Civics/Government

Concept 2: Structure of Government

Performance Objective 1: Describe the three branches of state and national government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial).

Objective: Students will write a speech about what office they would run for.

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Arizona Standard: Social Studies


**Credits**
