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Our Government Study Guide

The Constitution is a document written in 1787 that tells about the U.S. government and its citizens' rights and freedoms.

U.S. Federal Government			Three Branches	
Name of Each Branch	Legisl (Congr		Executive	Judicial
People in Office	House of Representatives (435)	Senate (100)	President and Vice President	Supreme Court Justices (9)



• The Federal Government is responsible for many things that help America follow the guidelines of the Constitution. Here are just three examples. ©

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- ⇒ Provide military protection and service to others
- ⇒ Provide a reliable mail service
- ⇒ Build interstate highways
- Washington D.C., our nation's capitol, is where the Federal Government is located.

THREE BRANCHES:

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- I. Legislative: Congress is a group of people who represent each of the 50 states. Their job is to discuss bills that could become law. They must discuss the details and vote on a bill before sending it to the President for review.
- 2. Executive: The President and Vice President work together to carry out laws. The President must sign a bill from Congress in order for it to become law. He or she is also the Commander in Chief for the entire military.
- 3. Judicial: This group of 9 judges is called the Supreme Court. They work to decide if laws go along with the Constitution.

Citizens' Responsibilities:

Each citizen in the United States is responsible for following laws and supporting the community by being a responsible taxpayer. Taxes are used to help our country provide education, protection, and to keep our country beautiful.

Citizens who are 18 years old are allowed to vote. Voting gives every adult in America has the right to speak their opinion. The citizens' votes show the government which issues are most important to the people. If citizens do not vote, then the members of government will simply make all the decisions themselves.