

**SYSTEM OF  
CHECKS AND BALANCES  
IN THE  
U. S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**



Grant reprieves and pardons  
Appoint judges to fill vacancies in the court

Approve presidential appointments  
Authority to bring impeachment hearings  
Power to override presidential vetoes  
Control appropriations  
Ratify treaties  
Declare war

Interpret laws and Presidential actions  
Judges appointed by the President  
Serve for life

Authority to call special sessions of Congress  
President is Commander-in-Chief  
Power to veto bills

Arrows indicate the direction of a check one branch exerts over the other.



**JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Power to institute new courts  
Authority to impeach  
Approve Judicial appointments made by President



**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

Interpret laws  
Determine constitutionality  
Serve for life

