

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a clear understanding of the structure of the U.S. government, including the three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. They will learn how these branches interact, their functions, and the importance of checks and balances in maintaining democracy.

## Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for taking notes
- Whiteboard or large paper for visual aids
- Markers or colored pencils
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (optional)

Before the lesson, familiarize yourself with the basic functions of each branch of government and the concept of checks and balances. You may also want to prepare a simple chart to help visualize the information.

## Activities

- **Branch Role Play:** The student will choose one of the three branches of government and create a short skit demonstrating its main functions. This will encourage creativity and reinforce their understanding of each branch's role.
- **Checks and Balances Game:** Create a board game where the student must navigate through scenarios that involve the three branches of government. They will learn how each branch can check the power of the others, making it a fun and interactive way to grasp the concept.
- **Branch Comparison Chart:** The student will create a chart comparing the three branches of government. They can include information such as key responsibilities, leaders, and how each branch interacts with the others. This visual representation will help solidify their understanding.

## Talking Points

- "The U.S. government is divided into three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Each branch has its own unique responsibilities and powers."
- "The Legislative branch makes the laws. It is made up of two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together are called Congress."
- "The Executive branch is responsible for enforcing the laws. The President leads this branch, along with the Vice President and the Cabinet."
- "The Judicial branch interprets the laws and ensures they are applied fairly. The Supreme Court is the highest court in this branch."
- "Checks and balances are essential because they prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. For example, Congress can pass a law, but the President can veto it."
- "Understanding the government structure helps you see how decisions are made in your country and how you can be involved as a citizen."