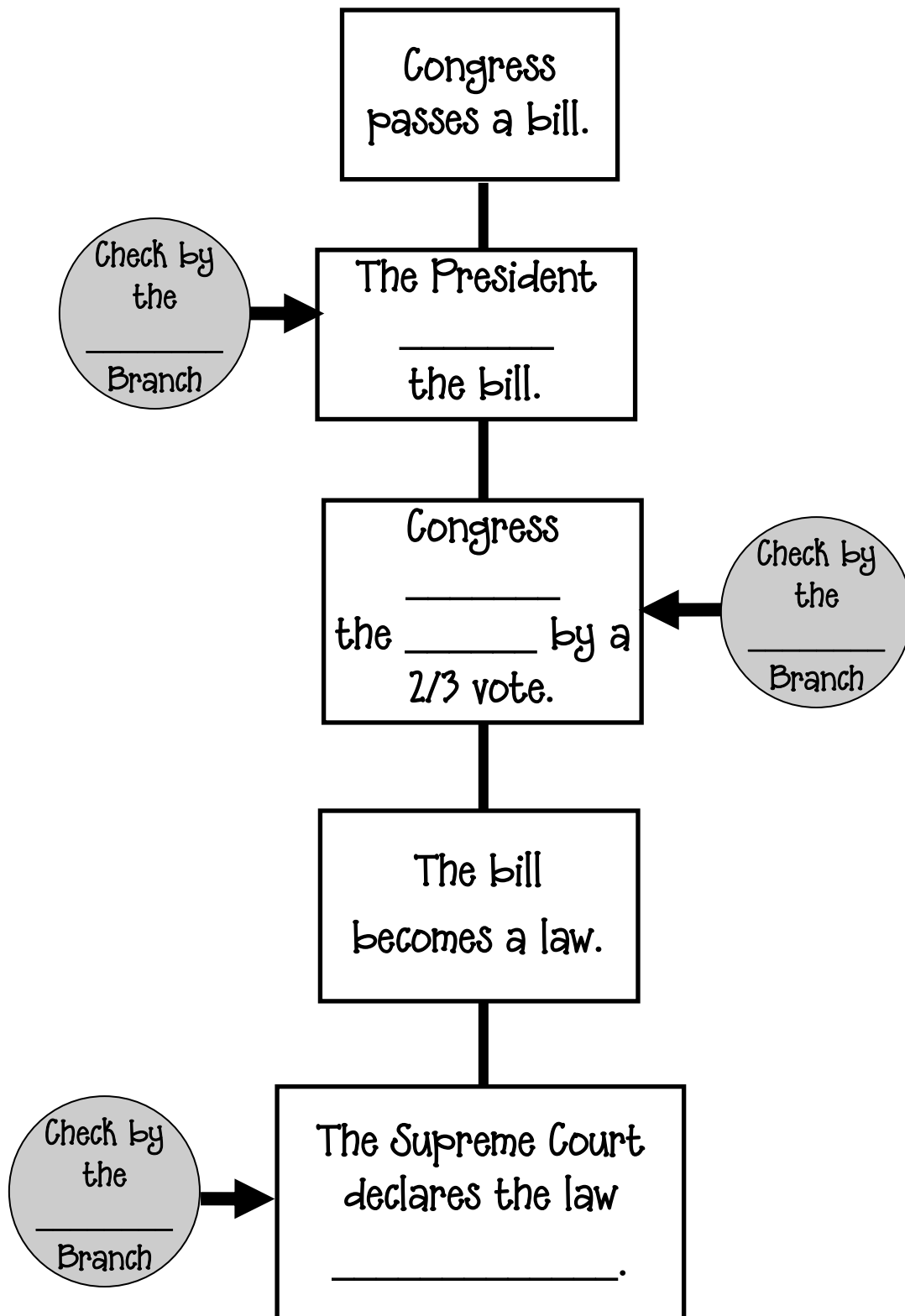


Checks and Balances



Checks and Balances Reference Sheet

The Legislative Branch

Checks on the Executive Branch

Only the Congress can declare war.

The President controls the armed forces but the Congress controls the money needed to support the armed forces.

The Senate must approve of presidential appointments.

The House of Representatives has the power to impeach the President. This means the President is charged with wrongdoing.

The Senate has the power to try the President after he or she has been impeached.

Congress may override Presidential vetoes.

Senate approves treaties and ambassadors.

Checks on the Judicial Branch

Congress has the power to impeach, try and remove Supreme Court Justices and federal judges from office

Senate approves federal judges

Congress has the power to alter the size of the Supreme Court.

Congress has the power to create other federal courts besides the Supreme Court, which was created by the Constitution.

The Executive Branch

Checks on the Legislative Branch

The President can veto a law.

Vice President is President of the Senate.

Checks on the Judicial Branch

Courts do not have the power to enforce their decisions. The President is responsible for this.

Power to nominate new judges.

The Judicial Branch

Checks on the Legislative Branch

The Supreme Court can declare a law unconstitutional.

Checks on the Executive Branch

The Supreme Court can declare a law unconstitutional

Chief Justice sits as President of the Senate during presidential impeachment.

Reviewing Limited Government

	What does this mean?	How does this limit government?
Government Constitutional	In a constitutional government the powers of the government are _____. It means that the government officials follow the rule of _____.	Rule of _____ makes sure that the _____ apply to everyone, even government officials. Nobody is above the _____. It also prevents the rulers from acting randomly.
Republic	A republic is a government based on the idea of popular _____, that the _____ hold the power of government. We have a representative government in our republic. The _____ choose representatives to make decisions for them.	People can _____ their representatives (Senators, Representatives, and President) out of office if they do not like what they are doing.
Reserving Powers Delegating &	The government has only those powers that the _____ agree to give it. The _____ give power to the federal government and the rest are reserved for the _____ or the _____.	The federal government is limited to the powers the _____ give it in the _____. The people keep all of the powers not given to the government. Some of the powers are also shared with state governments.
Powers Separation of	Our constitution divides the powers of government among three _____. Each _____ has a different function: to make, enforce, or interpret the _____.	This system helps prevent one _____ from becoming too _____. This limits the power of any one _____.
Checks & Balances	This system gives the branches a way to check each other's use of _____. For example, the legislative power of Congress is checked by the president if he/she _____ a bill and by the Supreme Court if they declare a law _____.	No branch can carry out its functions/ powers without some cooperation from the other _____. Checks and balances prevents one branch from becoming too _____ and prevents the abuse of power that might result in a single branch were in control.