

Roles of the U.S. Government

8th Grade

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will fully understand how the three divisions of the U.S. government (legislative, executive, and judicial) divide their power and the manner in which they each work together and separately.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following this activity students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the three different branches of the government and their characteristics. Describe how each of the three branches divide their power as well as how they share it. Understand the mechanisms of checks and balances and how each branch works with the others in order to maintain social order. After learning this information, the students will be asked to fill out a diagram identifying the main components and examples of each branch of government as well as how each of the branches divide their power.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civics and Government Standards 8.2.1 and 8.2.3
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook covering governmental procedures Internet access connected to http://www.squareleaf.net/
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before beginning the activities, students should have read through the textbook and have the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are three different branches within the government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch within the government is responsible for carrying out different aspects of the law. Divide the class into three different groups, labeling each group as one of the three branches government. Pose a question to the class and allow the class to discuss within their groups what they should do in regards to the question, whether it is their right to become involved within the problem or not. Repeat this procedure multiple times, taking time after each round to discuss why each branch should or should not concern themselves each time. As individuals, the students will connect to the Internet and access http://www.squareleaf.net/. Employing different colors for the different branches of

	<p>government, the students will use Squareleaf to create a basic definition of the governmental powers as well as an outline of their basic responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using examples from the previous activity to reinforce their knowledge of each branch, they will write where each question posed would fall. In addition, each student will add three situations of his or her own to the outline. • The students will print out their outline and break into small groups to discuss their situations.
<p>Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be graded according to the neatness and clarity of their data chart as well as their placement of the situations. They will be given a quiz in which they will place each branch of government with its characteristics or vice versa.



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