

U. S. Constitution
(1789)

Sets up the FORM and FUNCTION of government

FUNCTION

Checks and Balances : Each branch "checks" up on the other two so power remains "balanced."

Legislative

- House -- controls nation's \$\$\$
- Senate -- approve people president gives jobs to
- Declare war
- Make laws

Executive

- Chief Executive -- carry out laws made by Congress
- Commander in Chief -- control over the military
- Chief of State -- rep U.S. to the rest of the world

Judicial

- Review lower court actions for fairness to defendant
- Study laws to make sure they're in line w/ Constitution

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FORM

Separation of Powers : Divide gov't into 3 parts with DIFFERENT but EQUAL powers

Three "Branches"

Legislative

Congress

House of Representatives

Each state gets 2
At least 30 yrs old
Citizen for 9 yrs.

Executive

President

Citizen WHEN BORN
Live in U.S. 14 years
At least 35 years old

Reps based on POPULATION
At least 25 yrs. old
Citizen for 7 yrs.

Judicial

Supreme Court

9 Judges -- called "Justices"
"GOOD BEHAVIOR" only requirement!