How the U.S. Government Works
...and how it all comes together to make a nation

We the People

The Executive Branch
The Legislative Branch
The Judicial Branch

Updated with facts about—
• How a bill becomes a law in the Legislative branch
• The many departments and agencies of the Executive branch

by Syl A. Sobel, J.D.
Second Edition

BARRON'S
Government

The government is what makes laws.

The government makes sure laws are followed.

The rules to the government of the United States are called the Constitution.

The government has three different parts which are equal.

There are state and city governments.

Adapted from the original text, How the US Government Works, 2nd Edition, written By Syl Sobel J.D.
Legislature

1 2 3
The first part of the government is the legislature.

The legislature makes laws

2
The legislature has two parts:

The House of Representatives and the Senate.

The House of Representatives and the Senate both make laws

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Who is in the House of Representatives and the Senate?

People pick who they want in the House of Representatives.

The person who gets picked has the job for two years.

People pick who they want in the Senate.

The person who gets picked has the job for six years.

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The second part of the government is the executive.

The executive is the President.

People pick who they want as President.

The President has the job for four years.

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Powers of the President

- Approves or vetoes all bills passed by Congress
- Prepares the federal government's budget
- Is commander in chief of the armed forces
- Proposes laws and programs to Congress
- Can pardon those guilty of crimes against the federal government
- Keeps Congress informed about the state of the country and the economy
- Appoints cabinet members, ambassadors, and federal judges
- Conducts U.S. foreign relations, makes treaties, and receives foreign ambassadors

Jobs of the President

The President is the leader of the military

The President is in charge of different parts of the government

Some of these parts are the military, education, energy, trade and transportation

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The third part of the government is the judiciary.

The judiciary is made up of courts.

The court decides if laws were broken.

There are state and national courts.

The biggest court is the Supreme Court, which has nine judges.

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How laws are made

For a law to pass:

The **majority** of the **Senate** needs to say **OK**

The **majority** of the **House of Representatives** needs to say **OK**

Next, the President needs to say **OK**

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Federal Taxes

Taxes pay for the government

Taxes pay for the military to help the poor and to build highways

The legislator chooses where the taxes go

The executive spends the money in the different parts of government

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There are also taxes for your state and city. Taxes pay for schools and roads and bridges. Taxes pay for the people who work for the government.
The End

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