

# Branches in action

Decide which branch of the United States government is doing each job.

1 Read the key. Each branch has a different job.

**L Legislative branch**  
Congress: the Senate and the House of Representatives  
Makes the laws.

**E Executive branch**  
The President, the Vice President and the Cabinet  
Carries out and enforces the laws.

**J Judicial branch**  
The Supreme Court and the other federal courts  
Explains the laws and decides if they follow the Constitution.

2 Which branch is in action? Circle L, E or J.

|    | What is happening?                                                      | L | E | J |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1  | The Senate and the House both vote to pass a new bill.                  | L | E | J |
| 2  | The President signs the bill, and it becomes a law.                     | L | E | J |
| 3  | The Supreme Court rules that a law goes against the Constitution.       | L | E | J |
| 4  | The President vetoes a bill that Congress sent.                         | L | E | J |
| 5  | Congress votes to declare war.                                          | L | E | J |
| 6  | A federal judge hears a case about a company that broke a law.          | L | E | J |
| 7  | The President chooses a person to become a Supreme Court justice.       | L | E | J |
| 8  | The Senate votes to confirm the new justice.                            | L | E | J |
| 9  | A court decides whether a police search followed the Fourth Amendment.  | L | E | J |
| 10 | The President, as commander in chief, gives orders to the armed forces. | L | E | J |
| 11 | The House of Representatives votes to impeach a federal official.       | L | E | J |
| 12 | The Supreme Court listens to both sides of a case before it decides.    | L | E | J |

3 Pick two scenarios that show one branch checking another. Explain.