

This document has the benchmarks/standards that cover the three branches of government AND specifically, the Judicial Branch. This document is intended to help you understand WHAT you will need to know, HOW much you will need to know, and ways you will need to apply the information. Clicking the "Read More!" link, will bring you to a PDF file with further clarifications of each benchmark/standard.

SS.7.C.3.3: *Illustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.*

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will recognize the structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. [Read more!](#)
 - Students will compare the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of the federal government. [Read more!](#)
 - Students will identify the general powers described in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution. [Read more!](#)
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SS.7.C.3.8: *Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. (Also assessed SS.7.C.3.9 Illustrate the lawmaking process at the local, state, and federal levels.)*

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will examine the processes of the legislative (e.g., how a bill becomes a law, appointment confirmation, committee selection), executive (e.g., executive order, veto, appointments), and judicial (e.g., judicial review, court order, writ of certiorari, summary judgment) branches of government. [Read more!](#)
 - Students will compare local, state, and federal lawmakers (city/county commissioners/council members; state legislators [representatives and senators]; and U.S. congressmen/congresswomen [representatives and senators]).[Read more!](#)
 - Students will distinguish among ordinances, statutes, and acts on the local, state, and federal levels. [Read more!](#)
 - Students will compare and contrast the lawmaking process at the local, state, and federal levels. [Read more!](#)
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SS.7.C.3.11: *Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of courts at the state and federal levels.*

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will distinguish between the levels, functions, and powers of courts at the state and federal levels. [Read more!](#)
- Students will recognize that the powers and jurisdiction of the state and federal courts are derived from their respective constitutions. [Read more!](#)
- Students will compare appellate and trial processes. [Read more!](#)
- Students will examine the significance of the role of juries in the American legal system. [Read more!](#)