

## Warm-Up Activity

Summarize the purpose of the **judicial branch** in your own words:

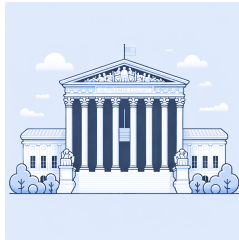
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If you had to choose a **symbol to represent the judicial branch** from the selection below, which would you choose? Circle it and explain why it works best in your opinion.

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### Multiple Choice

1. What is the main job of the judicial branch in the United States?
  - a. To make the laws.
  - b. To carry out the laws.
  - c. To decide if the laws are fair and follow the Constitution.
  - d. To elect the president.
2. Who is the leader of the Supreme Court?
  - a. The President
  - b. The Chief Justice
  - c. The Speaker of the House
  - d. The Secretary of State
3. What does the term unconstitutional mean?
  - a. A really old law.
  - b. A very popular law.
  - c. A law that does not agree with the Constitution.



4. Why is the system of checks and balances important in the government?
  - a. It ensures that one part of the government is not more powerful than the others.
  - b. It helps the government write checks to other countries.
  - c. It balances the government's budget so they do not overspend.
  - d. It checks to make sure that the laws are not too old and out of date.

**Complete Sentence Response:**

5. Why was Leo upset with Layla?

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6. Explain why Layla's decision was fair.

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**Fill in the Blank:**

7. The \_\_\_\_\_ branch of the United States government is responsible for interpreting the laws and deciding if they follow the Constitution.
8. The highest-ranking judge in the Supreme Court is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A law that goes against what is stated in the Constitution is considered \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The system of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that no single branch of government becomes too powerful.

**Making Connections: The Case of Playground Fairness**

**Background:**

- The school's playground rule is that each student can use the climbing frame for a maximum of 10 minutes when it's their turn. This rule was implemented to ensure fair play and prevent arguments.
- Recently, some students and playground supervisors have noticed that the rule is not always followed, leading to disagreements.

**The Case:**

- **Incident Details:** On a specific day, two students, Alex and Jordan, got into a dispute. Alex claimed that Jordan had exceeded the 10-minute limit, while Jordan disagreed.

- **Witness Accounts:** Several other students were waiting in line at the time. Two of them, Sam and Riley, expressed differing views on whether Jordan exceeded the time limit.
- **Supervisor's Note:** The playground supervisor, Mr. Lee, was overseeing the area but was momentarily distracted by another matter and did not have a precise timing of Jordan's turn.

**Your Role as the Judge:**

You and your classmates, acting as judges, will examine the details of the case. You'll need to interpret the existing rule about the climbing frame's use and apply it to this specific incident.

**Questions to Consider:**

- Consider the reliability of witness statements from Sam and Riley. How might their perspective differ, and why?
- How could Mr. Lee's momentary distraction affect his perception of the incident?
- Think about how the lack of a precise timer might contribute to disputes and what solutions could be implemented to prevent future incidents.

**Making Your Ruling:**

Discuss with your classmates and decide how the rule should be applied in this case. Write down your verdict and the reasoning behind it. Consider the following in your decision:

- Fair interpretation of the time limit rule.
- Recommendations for monitoring and enforcing the rule.
- Suggesting for resolving similar conflicts in the future.

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# Justice John Marshall | Worksheet Answer Key

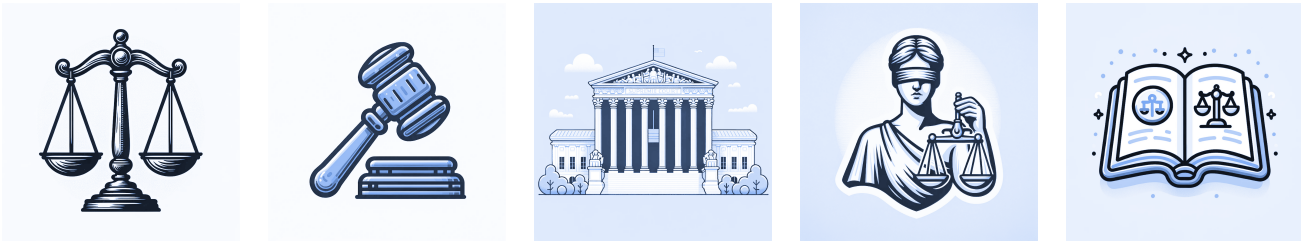
## Warm-Up Activity

Summarize the purpose of the **judicial branch** in your own words:

Student answers will vary but should include components of the definition found on the Lesson Plan: a governing body responsible for interpreting and determining the law's constitutionality

If you had to choose a **symbol to represent the judicial branch** from the selection below, which would you choose? Circle it and explain why it works best in your opinion.

Student answers will vary but should include reasoning to support their choice and one of the symbols selected below.



## Multiple Choice

11. What is the main job of the judicial branch in the United States?
  - a. To make the laws.
  - b. To carry out the laws.
  - c. To decide if the laws are fair and follow the Constitution.
  - d. To elect the president.
  
12. Who is the leader of the Supreme Court?
  - a. The President
  - b. The Chief Justice
  - c. The Speaker of the House
  - d. The Secretary of State
  
13. What does the term unconstitutional mean?
  - a. A really old law.
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14. Why is the system of checks and balances important in the government?
- It ensures that one part of the government is not more powerful than the others.
  - It helps the government write checks to other countries.
  - It balances the government's budget so they do not overspend.
  - It checks to make sure that the laws are not too old and out of date.

**Complete Sentence Response:**

15. Why was Leo upset with Layla? A suitable response should mention that Leo was upset because he felt Layla should have been more flexible with the rules, especially since they are siblings, rather than strictly adhering to them, which led to their loss of the game.
16. Explain why Layla's decision was fair. Students' answers should be in complete sentences and reflect an understanding that Layla's decision was fair because, as the referee, her role was to enforce the game's rules impartially. They should mention that her fairness comes from treating all players equally, regardless of personal relationships, thus upholding the integrity and fairness of the game.

**Fill in the Blank:**

17. The **judicial** branch of the United States government is responsible for interpreting the laws and deciding if they follow the Constitution.
18. The highest-ranking judge in the Supreme Court is called the **Chief Justice**.
19. A law that goes against what is stated in the Constitution is considered **unconstitutional**.
20. The system of **checks** and **balances** ensures that no single branch of government becomes too powerful.

**Making Connections: The Case of Playground Fairness**

**Background:**

- The school's playground rule is that each student can use the climbing frame for a maximum of 10 minutes when it's their turn. This rule was implemented to ensure fair play and prevent arguments.
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### **Making Your Ruling:**

Discuss with your classmates and decide how the rule should be applied in this case. Write down your verdict and the reasoning behind it. Consider the following in your decision:

- Fair interpretation of the time limit rule.
- Recommendations for monitoring and enforcing the rule.
- Suggesting for resolving similar conflicts in the future.

Students should assess whether the rule was broken based on the given incident details, witness accounts, and the supervisor's note. Look for logical reasoning in their verdicts. Evaluate students' decisions on the importance of witness reliability, the supervisor's role, and the need for accurate timing methods in determining if the rule was broken.

Here is one example of a possible class ruling:

**Rule review:** The rule is fair and clear, and all students admit to understanding it.

**Evidence review:** It seems unclear if the rule was broken because of the conflicting witness accounts. Since the evidence is unclear, Jordan should receive the benefit of the doubt.

**Future Prevention:** To prevent future disputes, the yard supervisor should make use of a visible timer and let students know when their time begins and ends, or have a stopwatch that can be passed along to the next student waiting in line.