Name _____ Date _____

The Three Branches: Who Has Which Power?

Directions: Decide which branch of the national government holds each power, using Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution. Any situation described here is made up.

1. Each of the first three articles of the U.S. Constitution sets up one branch of the national government. Match each article to the branch it creates.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Article II
2. _____ Article III
3. _____ Article I

A. The legislative branch, Congress
B. The judicial branch, the federal courts
C. The process for amending the Constitution
D. The executive branch, led by the president

2. In an invented crisis, the president asks for a formal declaration of war against another country. Under the Constitution, which branch has the power to declare war?

A. The judicial branch, through a ruling of the Supreme Court
B. The executive branch, through a decision by military leaders
C. The legislative branch, through a vote of Congress
D. The executive branch, through an order from the president

3. A reporter writing about an invented training exercise asks who holds the highest command over the nation's armed forces. According to the Constitution, who is it?

A. The president, as commander in chief
B. The Speaker of the House
C. The chief justice of the Supreme Court
D. The Senate, acting by majority vote

4. Two businesses disagree about what a federal law requires, and one of them sues the other in federal court. Which branch decides the case?

A. The legislative branch
B. The judicial branch
C. The executive branch
D. Congress and the president, acting together

5. A classmate says, "The president writes and passes the nation's laws." Which correction is accurate?

A. The president passes bills, and Congress then signs them.
B. Congress passes bills, and the president can then sign or veto them.
C. The Supreme Court passes bills, and the president then signs them.
D. The classmate is right, because the president leads the government.

6. Congress passes an invented law requiring safety labels on new ladders, and the president signs it. Which branch is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the law?

A. The executive branch

B. The judicial branch, since judges read every new law

C. The legislative branch, since Congress wrote the law

D. No branch, since a law enforces itself

7. A new ambassador from an invented country arrives in Washington, D.C., to begin her post. Which official does the Constitution make responsible for receiving foreign ambassadors?

A. The chief justice

B. The president

C. The Speaker of the House

D. The Senate, which votes on ambassadors

8. The Constitution directs one official to keep Congress informed, every so often, about how the country is doing and to suggest measures for Congress to consider. Who is it?

A. The Speaker of the House

B. The president

C. The secretary of state

D. The chief justice

9. Congress and the president both play parts in national defense. Which TWO of these powers does the Constitution give to Congress? Select 2.

☐ A. Decide court cases about military contracts

☐ B. Command the armed forces

☐ C. Create and pay for an army

☐ D. Build and keep up a navy

☐ E. Receive ambassadors from other countries

10. Years after being convicted of a federal tax crime in an invented case, a man asks to be forgiven for the offense. Which official has the power to grant him a pardon?

A. The judge who heard his case

B. The president

C. The governor of his state

D. The Speaker of the House