Grade 7
Civics
The United States Constitution established the three branches of the government. The branches of the government are called the executive, judicial, and legislative.
kindergarten

legislative

evergreen
The legislative branch of government can create rules. For example, the legislature can make rules about the taxes people must pay and about how fast people can drive on highways.
to pass laws about taxes

to read books about singing

to print newspapers about events
Each branch of government has different powers. This chart shows the connections between the branches of government.

**Actions of Each Branch of Government**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch of Government</th>
<th>Actions of the Branch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislative</td>
<td>Passes laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Enforces laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>Interprets laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The executive branch depends on the legislative branch to interpret laws.

The legislative branch depends on the executive branch to enforce laws.

The judicial branch depends on the legislative branch to enforce laws.
The United States helps other countries by sending food.
by sending food

by watching television

by buying magazines
The United Nations is an organization that promotes international cooperation and provides assistance to member nations. As a member, the United States gives money to the United Nations. This money is used to provide food, education, and medicine to people living in member countries.
by printing dollar bills

by naming new planets

by providing medical care
The United States works with other nations through the United Nations. The chart shows some of the United Nations’ peacekeeping activities that the United States has participated in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States Participation in Selected United Nations Peacekeeping Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Somalia in 2007</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Haiti in 2010</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liberia in 2011</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
by requiring countries to build larger houses

by forcing governments to grow needed food

by teaching local armies how to maintain peace
Everyone is required to obey laws.
dogs

cans

laws
All people must obey laws about where trash should be put.
A person puts water into a bottle.

A person buys a bottle of water to drink.

A person places a water bottle in a recycling bin.
The law requires that people and businesses pay taxes. The government uses the tax money to provide services to people.
The government would lower the taxes for everyone.

There would be less money for government services.

Businesses would be able to change laws.
Florida is separated into 67 counties. Each county has its own sheriff’s department. County sheriffs are responsible for enforcing laws in their counties.
a dancer

a teacher

a sheriff
There are laws against throwing trash on the ground in public places. If a person is concerned about trash in a park, the person should speak to a county sheriff.
teaching when parks are open to the public

changing the days that trash is picked up

stopping people from littering
The state of Florida and its cities, towns, villages, and counties each have their own government departments and offices.

**Some Departments and Offices in Florida**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Department</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police Department</td>
<td>Law enforcement for a city, town, or village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>Law enforcement for a county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Patrol</td>
<td>Law enforcement for state highways and roads</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
They all enforce laws.

They all build highways.

They all are located in villages.