

# Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

## The Constitution

### Lesson 2 *The Three Branches of Government*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Locate each heading below in your text. Then use the information under the correct heading and subheading to help you write each answer.

#### I. The National Government

A. What was one of the most persuasive arguments for the Constitution in *The Federalist Papers*?

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B. How did the Founders use separate branches to create a limited government?

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#### II. Legislative Branch

A. What is the responsibility of the legislative branch, and how did the Founders prevent the legislative branch from abusing its powers?

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B. What are some examples of Congress's enumerated powers?

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#### III. Executive Branch

A. What is the function of the executive departments, federal agencies, boards, commissions, government corporations, and advisory boards?

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B. What specific powers are given to the president under the Constitution?

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# Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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## The Constitution

### IV. Judicial Branch

A. What courts were established by the Constitution?

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B. What is judicial review?

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### V. American Government: Then and Now

A. Why are the jobs of the president, the Congress, and the Supreme Court much busier today than they were two hundred years ago?

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### VI. Relations Among the Branches

A. How does the sharing of power among three branches lead to cooperation and conflict?

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### Summary and Reflection

**Directions:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

Explain how the U.S. Constitution structures the government with checks and balances to keep any one branch from becoming too powerful.

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