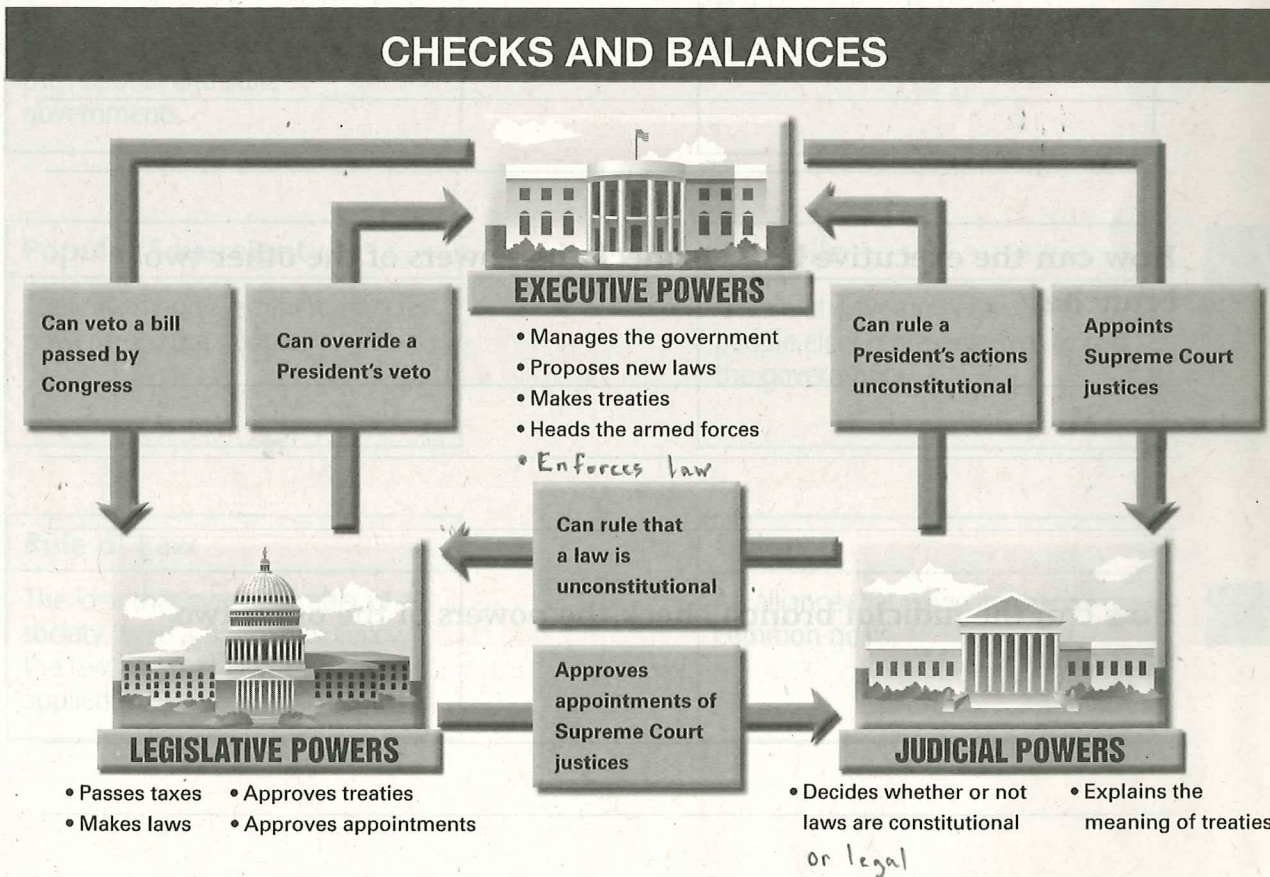


5.2 Branches of Government

The Constitution divides the federal government into three branches. These branches are the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch. The Constitution's framers created this **separation of powers** to keep any one branch from controlling the government.

Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution explain the powers and duties of each branch. The Constitution gives each branch powers to check, or block, the powers of the other two branches. For example, the President can veto a bill passed by Congress. However, Congress can override that veto if it has enough votes. This system is called **checks and balances**. It keeps any one branch from becoming too powerful or misusing its authority.

DIRECTIONS
Study the chart below. Then answer the questions on page 74.



(continued)