Three Branches of Government - Webquest and Independent Study
http://wamscivics.weebly.com/

Overview:
To ensure a separation of powers, the U.S. Federal Government is made up of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. To ensure the government is effective and citizens' rights are protected, each branch has its own powers and responsibilities, including working with the other branches. This webquest will explore the organization and responsibilities of each branch.

Directions: Please start on the homepage of this webquest. Make sure you go through the sections in order. As the teacher for help if you need it! Begin by watching the video on the homepage entitled “10 Uncommon Facts About the U.S. Constitution.” Then move on to the Legislative Branch.

Part 1 - Legislative Branch
1. The Legislative Branch is divided into two parts, the House of Reps. and the Senate. Together they are known as Congress.

2. Which house of Congress do you think is harder to get elected to? Explain.
   Senate, only 2 per state, longer terms

3. Which house is based on the small state plan? Which house is based on the large state plan?
   Senate

4. ** TRUE/FALSE: The House of Reps. is based on equal representation.**

5. Which state would have more representatives - New York or Alaska? Why?
   New York - population

6. Which state would have more Senators - New York or Alaska? Why?
   Both the same - equal rep.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>House of Reps.</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>How do they determine the population of each state?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Membership</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Conduct a census every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of members from each state</td>
<td>1/600,000 depends on population</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term of Office (Length)</td>
<td>2 yrs.</td>
<td>6 yrs.</td>
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Enumerated Powers of Congress

Article I of the Constitution deals with the legislative branch. Article I alone makes up more than half of the Constitution. It shows just how important the legislative branch was to our Founding Fathers. Article I, Section 8 includes 17 enumerated powers. Enumerated powers are powers that are specifically listed in the Constitution. Below are some specific powers of Congress. Your job is to look through Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (below) and identify which clause gives Congress the following powers.

1. The power to impose and collect taxes
2. The power to coin money
3. The power to establish post offices
4. The power to declare war
5. The power to raise and support an army
6. To provide and maintain a navy
7. To promote the progress of Science
8. To regulate commerce (trade) with foreign nations

How A Bill Becomes a Law

1. A **bill** is a proposed law. A bill can be proposed in either the **House** or **Senate**. If they disagree over the details of a bill, they need to **compromise** on a single bill. The bill then goes to the President and he/she can either **sign** or **veto** the bill. If 2/3 of both houses agree that they still want to pass the bill, they can **override** the veto, and the bill becomes law anyway.

2. Using the charts on the webquest, fill in the following flowchart to show you understand this process!

A. The President signs a bill into law or vetoes the law.
B. A bill is proposed by a Senator or Congressman.
C. The House and the Senate meet in committee to create a compromise bill.
D. The House and the Senate pass their respective bills.
E. The Compromise bill is passed by the House and the Senate.

*Place the letters in the boxes below in order from left to right*
Part II: The Executive Branch

1. Define the terms in your own words and answer the questions below (bullet point is fine)

Impeach: _voter; prohibiting serious charges against President_
Executive Order: _presidential commands that have the power of law_ 
Pardon: _forgive someone free from punishment_ 
Cabinet: _7 of others that advise the President_ 
Veto: _cancel or reject a law_

2. List three important powers of the President. Circle the one you think is most important.

- Veto laws
- Create treaties
- Arm the armed forces

3. What are the three qualifications requirements to be President?
   - at least 35 years old
   - U.S. resident - 14 years
   - born to a US citizen parents

4. American Presidents can only serve ______ TERMS.
   a. 1 
   b. 2
   c. 4
   d. 8

5. Which of the following Presidents was the only President to be elected to four terms?
   a. George Washington
   b. Franklin D. Roosevelt
   c. Barack Obama
   d. George W. Bush

6. Who becomes President if the current President dies, resigns or is removed from office?

7. True or False: Only the President can declare war.

8. What is the role of a President’s cabinet:

The President has the most powerful job in the world. It’s like working seven jobs at once - some people say he wears seven hats. (Not literal hats, just different roles and responsibilities.) See if you can match each of the President’s jobs, described on the webquest, with a real President’s actions.

1. 3 2  4. G

Finally, after watching the video clip about Presidential facts, list the most interesting below:
Part III: Judicial Branch

1. The Supreme Court is the __highest__ court in the land and enjoys the sole power to __interpret__ the law and determine the __constitutionality__ of the law. It is made up of __9__ justices and those men/women hold their positions for __life__. Supreme Court Justices get their job by being __appointed__ by the __President__ and approved by the __Senate__. This is an example of checks and balances (you will learn about this in the next section).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Idea</th>
<th>Reasoning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Justices should be appointed, not elected.</td>
<td>Free to make unpopular decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justices should keep their positions for life.</td>
<td>No fear of losing job or making decisions just so they will be re-elected</td>
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Part IV: Checks and Balances

1. In your own words, explain the concept of checks and balances.
   
   Each of the branches can limit the powers of the others

2. List three examples of checks and balances.
   
   a. Court can declare laws unconstitutional
   b. President can veto a bill
   c. Congress can override a veto

Use the cartoon on the webquest to answer the following questions...

1. The Judicial Branch is drawn as __referees__ and their rulebook is the __constitution__

2. In general, what is written on the football players jerseys?
   
   __powers of each branch__

3. __D__ Which branch do you think the cartoonist believes is the most powerful?
   
   a. Legislative
   b. Executive
   c. Judicial

   
   More players = more powers