- CHECKS AND BALANCES -
The System of Balancing Power

Directions: Using the provided flowchart, identify how each branch can CHECK (counter) the powers of the other branches. Be careful to place your information in the correct boxes.

Executive Branch checks the __?__ by...

Legislative Branch:

Executive Branch:

Judicial Branch:

Legislative Branch checks the __?__ by...

Executive Branch:

Judicial Branch:

Executive Branch:

Judicial Branch checks the __?__ by...

Legislative Branch:
Please Note: The direction of the arrows indicates which branch is checking the actions of another branch. Be careful as you fill in your information on the graphic organizer!

**US Government Checks and Balances**

**Executive**
- Can override Presidential veto
- Control appropriations
- Ratify treaties
- Declare war
- Refuse Presidential appointments
- Impeach and remove the President from office
- May rule that Presidential action is unconstitutional.
- Judges appointed by the President serve for life.

**Legislative**
- The President is the "Commander-in-Chief"
  - who can veto bills
  - recommend legislation
  - call special sessions of Congress
- Interprets laws and may declare laws unconstitutional
- Can refuse judicial appointments
- Authority to impeach judges
- Can create lower courts
- Can propose constitutional amendments to overrule Supreme Court decisions.

**Judicial**
- President appoints judges to fill vacancies.
- President can grant reprieves and pardons.