

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Discovering Democracy: The Three Branches of Government

### Short Answer Key

1. Checks and balances ensure that no one branch of government becomes too powerful by allowing each branch to limit the powers of the other branches. For example, the President can veto bills passed by Congress, but Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote.
2. Members of the House of Representatives are elected by the people in their respective districts for two-year terms. Senators are elected by the citizens of their state for six-year terms.
3. The Vice President supports the President and is next in line to assume the presidency if the President cannot fulfill their duties.
4. If the President vetoes a bill passed by Congress, it goes back to Congress. Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
5. A Supreme Court justice can be removed from office only through impeachment by the House of Representatives and conviction by the Senate for "high crimes and misdemeanors."

