

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Puzzle of Power: Why We Separate It

### 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 a bill passed by Congress, but Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote.
2. The primary responsibility of the Executive Branch is to enforce and execute the laws created by the Legislative Branch. The head of the Executive Branch is the President.
3. The separation of powers ensures that no single branch can infringe on the rights of citizens. For example, the Judicial Branch can declare a law unconstitutional if it violates the Constitution, protecting the rights of citizens.
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. The Judicial Branch ensures that laws are fair and just by interpreting them and ensuring they align with the Constitution. If a law is found to be unconstitutional, it is deemed invalid.

