

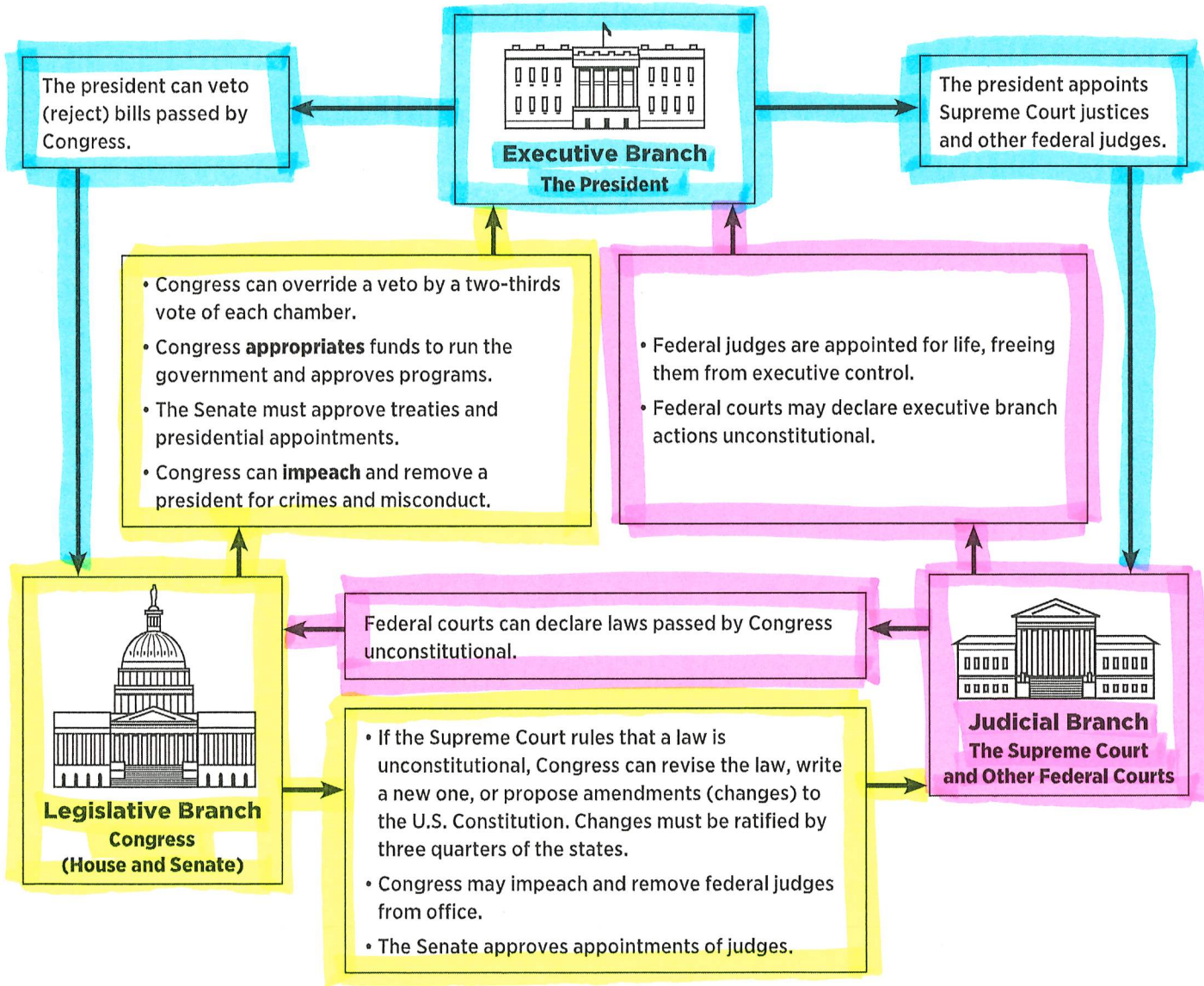
Reading a Diagram

KEY STANDARDS  
 RH.6-8.3    RH.6-8.7

## Checks and Balances

The framers of the U.S. Constitution realized that too much power can be dangerous. To prevent any part of the government from becoming too powerful, the Constitution created three separate branches of the federal government. The Constitution gives each

branch its own powers. This separation of powers creates a system of checks and balances. Each branch can check (limit) the power of the other two. This helps maintain a balance of power among the three. Study the diagram to see how this works.



**WORDS TO KNOW**

- **appropriate** (v): to set aside for a specific use
- **impeach** (v): to bring a charge of wrongdoing against a public official

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