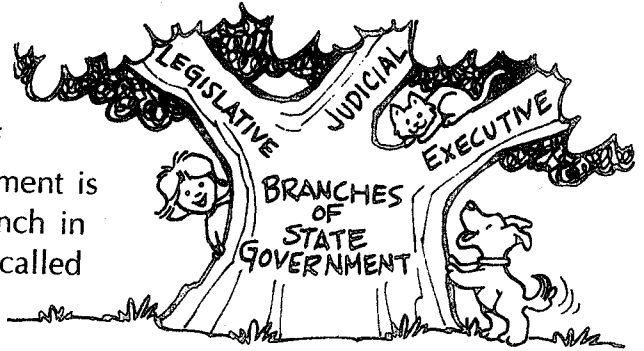




State Government

From Alaska to Hawaii and California to Maine, the states of the United States are so different and have such different concerns that federal laws cannot meet each state's specific needs. State government allows each state to make rules and laws that are specific to its state. Each state has a capital city, like the country's capital, Washington, D. C., where the government does its work. The organization of state government is very similar to the organization of the federal government. Each state in the United States has an executive, legislative, and judicial branch of government. The executive branch in state government is headed by the state's governor. The legislative branch in most state governments has an upper house (usually called a senate) and a lower house (usually called a house of representatives, but sometimes called by other names) to make laws. The judicial branch in state government contains state courts and a state supreme court. Each state also has its own constitution. A state's constitution and laws can be very different from another's, but cannot go against the U.S. Constitution.



Circle true or false for each statement below.

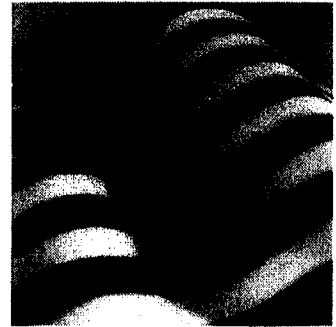
- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Each state's constitution is the same. | true | false |
| 2. Each state has three branches of government. | true | false |
| 3. Every state has two houses in the legislative branch. | true | false |
| 4. Every state has a governor. | true | false |
| 5. A state's constitution can keep women from voting in that state. | true | false |
| 6. A governor is to a state as the president is to the country. | true | false |
| 7. State governments do their work in Washington, D. C. | true | false |
| 8. Federal laws are not specific enough to meet all state's needs. | true | false |
| 9. Each state has a supreme court. | true | false |
| 10. The executive branch makes the laws in state government. | true | false |

The Three Branches of Virginia's Government

There are three branches of Government in Virginia.

They are:

- _____ Branch
- _____ Branch
- _____ Branch



Legislative Branch

The legislative branch of Virginia's government makes _____
_____. It is called the _____ and
contains two parts: the _____ and the _____ of
_____.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch is the state's _____ system. The judicial branch
decides cases about people accused of _____ the _____ and
whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's constitution.

Executive Branch

The executive branch makes sure that _____ are carried
out. The _____ heads the executive branch.



Name _____

Virginia Government Quiz

Directions: Read each question carefully and circle one answer for each.

1. The legislative branch of the Virginia government is known as the _____.
 - a. General Assimilation
 - b. House of Burgesses
 - c. General Assembly
 - d. Congress

2. The Virginia General Assembly is divided into two parts: _____.
 - a. the Senate and the House of Delegates
 - b. the Senate and the House of Representatives
 - c. the Senate and the Congress
 - d. the Senate and the House of Burgesses

3. How many branches make up Virginia government?
 - a. Three
 - b. Five
 - c. Seven
 - d. Two

4. What is the General Assembly?
 - a. the legislative branch of Virginia's government
 - b. the executive branch of Virginia's government
 - c. a building designed by Thomas Jefferson
 - d. part of the judicial branch of Virginia's government

5. Which part of Virginia's government dates back to colonial Jamestown?
 - a. the governor
 - b. the Attorney General
 - c. the General Assembly
 - d. the Virginia Supreme Court

6. Virginia's government must make sure that Virginia's laws agree with:
 - a. The laws of other states
 - b. Virginia's Constitution
 - c. The Declaration of Independence
 - d. The Bill of Rights

Directions: Answer the questions below with the words found in the word bank. **NOTE:** You may need to use one or more words more than once.

Judicial Executive Legislative

7. Legal cases in Virginia are heard and decided by _____.
8. This branch decides whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's Constitution.

9. This branch is made up of the state's court system. _____
10. This branch of state government is headed by the governor. _____
11. The primary function of this branch is to make sure that the laws of the state are carried out. _____
12. This branch of state government makes state laws. _____

BONUS: What is a good or service owed to another? _____