

CHAPTER 32

Correlates with SS8CG1a; SS8CG1b;
SS8CG1c; SS8CG1d; SS8CG1e; SS8CG1f

THE ROLE OF CITIZENS UNDER GEORGIA'S CONSTITUTION

Key Terms

Georgia constitution
separation of powers
checks and balances
rights
responsibilities

voting qualifications
political parties
wisdom, justice, moderation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia Flag

Structure of the Georgia State Constitution

The Georgia government has operated under 10 constitutions. The latest revision was adopted in 1983. Here is the basic structure of the **Georgia Constitution**:

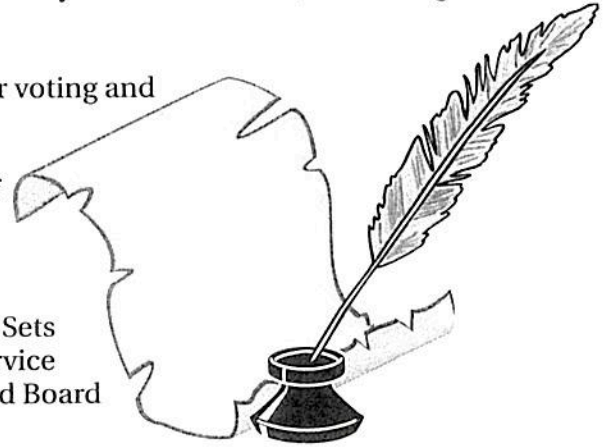
Preamble – States purpose of the constitution.

Article I Bill of Rights – States specific rights guaranteed by the constitution, such as rights to life, liberty, and property.

Article II Voting and Elections – Sets qualifications for voting and rules for elections.

Article III Legislative Branch – Describes structure of and powers given to the General Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives).

Article IV Constitutional Boards and Commissions – Sets up government bodies such as the Public Service Commission, State Transportation Board, and Board of Pardons and Paroles.



Article V Executive Branch – Establishes offices and powers of governor and lieutenant governor.

Article VI Judicial Branch – Establishes state court system.

Article VII Taxation and Finance – Authorizes power to tax, and purposes and methods of taxation.

Article VIII Education – Establishes public education system supported by taxes, and Board of Education to oversee it.

Article IX Counties and Municipal Corporations – Describes powers and structure of county government.

Article X Amendments to the Constitution – Describes process to amend the constitution.

Article XI Miscellaneous Provisions





Critical Thinking



CC6-8RH3

Refer to the list of articles in the Georgia Constitution to answer the questions.

1. Can you pick out one article in the Georgia Constitution that you would not find in the U.S. Constitution?

2. What pays for the school system in Georgia? _____
3. Name the board in Article IV that deals with the prison system. _____
4. If you had a question on voting qualifications, which article would help you?

5. Which article describes the powers of the governor? _____
6. Which section of the Georgia Constitution states its purpose? _____
7. What are the two divisions of the General Assembly described in Article III?

8. If you had a question about methods of taxation in Georgia, which article would you consult?

9. Which article describes the process to amend the Georgia Constitution? _____
10. Which article establishes the state court system? _____

Separation of Powers

The branches of the state government are similar to the federal system. They are known as legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Each branch depends on the others to work effectively. Each branch also has separate, distinct powers that cannot be taken away by either of the other two branches. This is known as **separation of powers**.

Branches of the Georgia State Government:

- Legislative — General Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives): *create laws*
- Executive — Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and State Treasurer: *enforce laws*
- Judicial — Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, and Municipal Courts: *interpret laws*



Georgia State Capitol



Quick Review

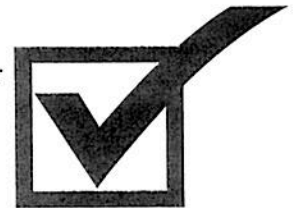


Fill in the blanks with the information you've learned about state government.

- A. The legislative branch _____ laws. In Georgia, it is called the _____
- B. The executive branch _____ laws. The highest elected official in Georgia, the _____, is part of the executive branch.
- C. The judicial branch _____ laws. The Georgia Supreme _____ and other lower level _____ make up this branch.

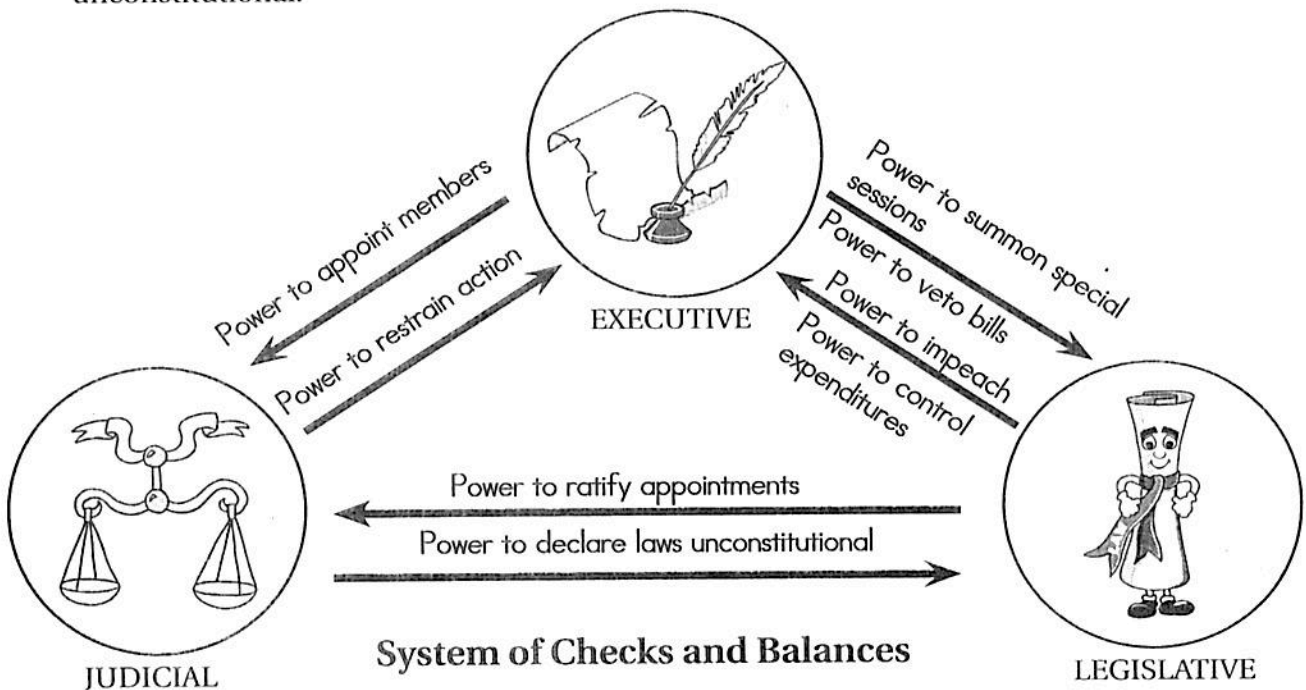
Checks and Balances!

Having three separate branches of government makes sure that no one branch can have more power than the others. Each branch can check the power of the other two, and make sure one does not become too powerful. This is called **checks and balances**.



Examples of checks and balances:

- The General Assembly (legislative branch) may pass a bill, but the governor (executive branch) may veto, or say 'no' to it.
- The governor (executive branch) may veto a bill, but the General Assembly (legislative branch) may pass the bill over the veto if they have enough votes.
- The state Supreme Court (judicial branch) can declare laws (legislative branch) unconstitutional.





Rapid Recall



CC6-8RH7

Examine the diagram on the previous page and write three more examples of checks and balances in the Georgia government.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____




Apply What You Learned



CC6-8RH7

This chart shows the structure and powers of government at the state level. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the diagram. Write 1) the name of the person or group who serves in each branch and 2) one of the duties of each branch.

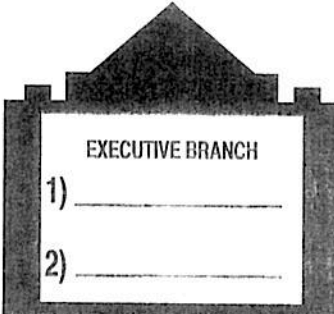
System of Checks and Balances



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1) _____

2) _____



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1) _____

2) _____



JUDICIAL BRANCH

1) _____

2) _____

Word Bank

- Governor
- Creates laws
- Supreme Court
- Enforces laws
- Interprets laws
- General Assembly

Writing Prompt

CC6-8RH1; CC6-8WHST2

Explain the relationship between "separation of powers" and "checks and balances" as they apply to the three branches of the Georgia state government. Use textual evidence to support your response.