The Three Branches of Government

LEGISLATIVE

Makes the law

Assembly: 80 legislators

• Senate: 40 legislators

EXECUTIVE

Executes and enforces the law

Governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, controller, insurance commissioner, superintendent of public instruction

JUDICIAL

Interprets the law

State courts and judges (the seven Supreme Court justices head the judicial branch). California is one of six states in which its Supreme Court does not sit in the capital. Instead, it sits in San Francisco.



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What is the Law?

- A rule tells us what we should or should not do.
- A state law is a rule that all people in California must follow.
- Ideas for laws can come from anyone, of any age, but a bill can only be officially proposed by a legislator.
- A bill is an idea for a law that has been written in legal language.
- There are two groups, or houses, of legislation in California: senators and assembly members.
- A committee is a group of legislators that studies the bill.

- Debate is a discussion about the bill.
- Veto means "to forbid." It gives a government official the right to reject or prohibit a proposed act or bill.

How an Idea Becomes a Law

- Someone thinks of an idea for a new law and presents their idea to a legislator.
- A legislator agrees to take it through the official steps.
- Legislative lawyers write the idea in legal language. It is now called a bill.

- If the committee recommends
 the bill to be passed, it goes
 back to the full Assembly or
 Senate for debate and vote
- which holds public meetings to discuss the bill. People write in, email, or call in responses to the proposed law.
- The bill is taken to the

 Assembly or the Senate, where
 the bill is given a number.

- If a bill gets enough votes to pass in the house where it started, it goes to the other house and repeats steps 5 and 6.
- If a bill does not get the number of votes it needs from each house, it dies.
- houses go to the governor. The
 governor can sign the bill, veto it
 or not sign the bill (after 12 days,
 an unsigned bill becomes a law).
- The bill becomes a law for the State of California.

 Most laws take effect on the first day of the following year.

Let's Make a Law

Use the information in the chart on page 10 to answer the following questions.

2.	2. What is a bill?					
3.	3. Ideas for laws can come from					
	A. only people born in California B. an	A. only people born in California B. anyone, whether a citizen or not C. only citizens of the US				
4.	Name the two houses (groups) of the legislature.					
5.	5. After a bill passes both houses, it					
	A. becomes a law B. ret	urns to committee	C. goes to the governor			
6.	6. The governor may choose to sign the bill, not	sign the bill, or	jt.			
7. If the governor does not sign the bill within 12 days, the bill						
		comes a law anyway	C. will not become a law			
8. How old must you be to present an idea for a law to the state legislature?						
	A. 18 years or older B. an	y age				

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Let's Make a Law continued



Assembly Member:

- 9. Most state laws affect...
 - A. only people born in California
 - B. anyone, whether a citizen or not
 - C. only citizens of the United States
- 10. If you wanted to propose your idea, you could present it to the assembly member or senator who represents your district. Write their names here:

	Senator:	
11.	What idea do you have for a new state law? Write your idea below and explain why you think this law is important for California. What are some pros and cons of your new law?	

Pros	Cons



Governor's Portrait

Each governor's portrait is on display in the Capitol. The artist of each portrait is chosen by the governor so that the picture represents the personality of the person in office.



Your

Explain the character traits displayed by these governors and then draw your own portrait that represents your personality.

Portrait Here		



Pictured top to bottom:

- Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown, 1975-1983, 2011-2019
- Gray Davis, 1999-2003
- Arnold Schwarzenegger,2003-2011
- Gavin Newsom,2019-present