



# Branches of Government

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Brief Reading  
Maps  
Matching Cards  
Glossary

Social Studies  
Grade Level Content Expectation  
3 – C C3.03



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# Three Branches of Government

There are three branches of government in Michigan: the legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch of government has its own responsibilities with state laws.

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1

The **legislative branch** makes the laws. The Senate and House of Representatives lead the legislative branch. They meet at the State Capitol.



2

The **executive branch** enforces the laws. This branch makes sure that people follow the laws. The governor is the head of the executive branch. The executive offices are in the Romney Building.



3

The **judicial branch** interprets the laws. The Michigan Supreme Court leads the judicial branch. Justices and judges make sure that laws are fair and are understood. They meet in the Michigan Hall of Justice.

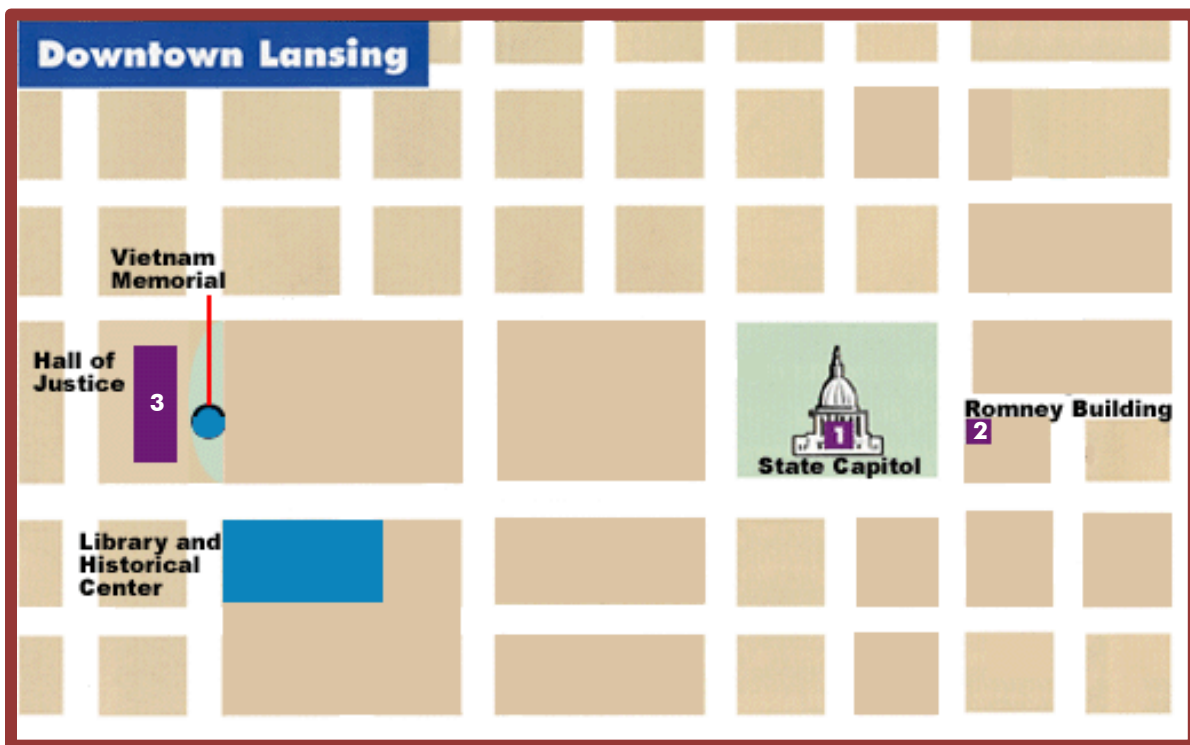


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# Three Branches of Government



Lansing is the capital of Michigan. State government is located there.



This is a map of downtown Lansing. Can you find where the three branches of government have their offices?

**Three Branches of Government** – Draw a picture for each branch of government – one for each card on the left. Then, cut out the cards and practice matching the branch of government to its responsibility with the laws.

**Make**



**Legislative**

**Enforce**



**Executive**

**Interpret**



**Judicial**

# Glossary – Three Branches of Government

**Capital** – City where government meets.

**Capitol** – Building where government meets.

**Enforce** – To make sure people follow the laws. For example, police enforce the law.

**Executive Branch of Government** – The branch of government that enforces the law. In Michigan, it is led by the governor.

**Governor** – The head of the executive branch in Michigan.

**House of Representatives** – One of the houses of the legislative branch in Michigan.

**Interpret** – To decide what a law means, if it is fair, and how it applies in a particular case. For example, a judge may decide that it is fair to interpret a law about telephones to apply to cell phones, too.

**Judicial Branch of Government** – The branch of government that interprets laws. It is led by the Michigan Supreme Court.

**Justice** – (1) The title used for a judge of a supreme court. (2) A Core Democratic Value having to do with “fairness.”

**Lansing** – The city that is the capital of Michigan.

**Laws** – Rules made by the legislative branch to help people be safe and know right from wrong. For example, drivers stop at a stop sign because that is the law.

**Legislative Branch of Government** – The branch of government that makes laws. It is led by the House of Representatives and the Senate in Michigan.

**Make** – To introduce, write, and vote on a law.

**Michigan Hall of Justice** – The headquarters of the judicial branch. It is near the State Capitol in Lansing.

**Romney Building** – The location of the executive offices, near the State Capitol in Lansing. It is named for former Governor George Romney.

**Senate** – One of the houses of the legislative branch of government in Michigan.

**State Capitol** – The headquarters of the legislative branch. It is in Lansing.

**Supreme Court** – The head of the judicial branch in Michigan.