



2 main forms of democratic governments . . .

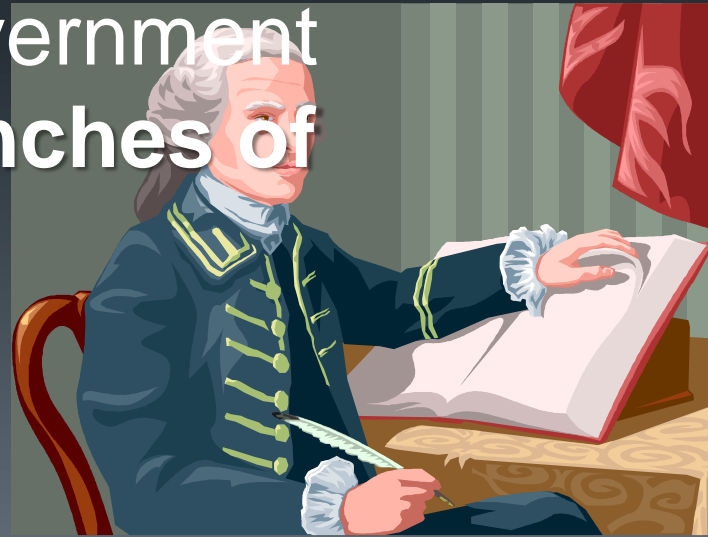
1. Presidential

2. Parliamentary

Each elects their branches of government differently

Separation of Powers

- In 1787, the founding fathers wrote the **Constitution**, the document which establishes the basic **principles** of the American **government**.
- The Constitution calls for a **separation of powers** that divides the powers and duties of the government between three separate **branches of government**.



Branches of Government

EXAMPLES

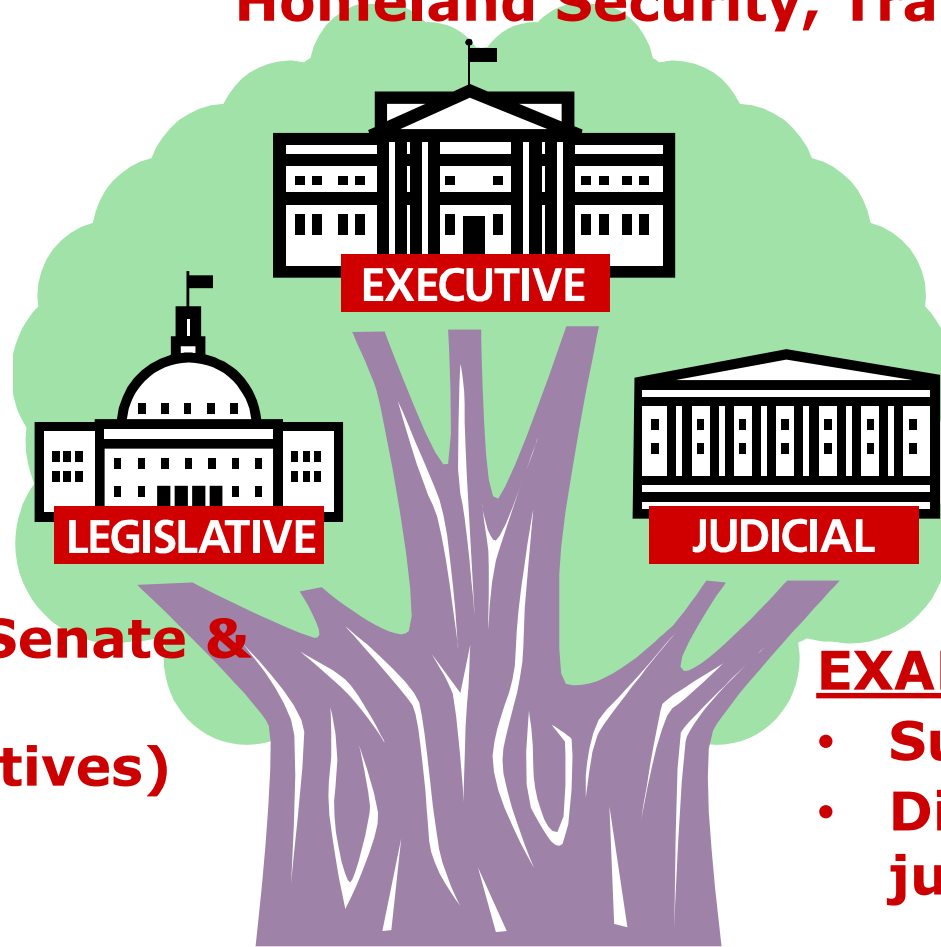
**Enforces Laws -
makes sure laws
are carried out**

- **President or Prime Minister**
- **Vice President**
- **Cabinets/Agencies - Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Education, Health, Homeland Security, Transportation, etc.**

Makes laws

EXAMPLES

- **Congress (Senate & House of Representatives)**
- **Parliament**



**Interprets
laws – settles
arguments
about laws**

EXAMPLES

- **Supreme Court**
- **District courts & juries**

CONSTITUTION



The U.S. Capitol



The White House



The Supreme Court

LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

CONGRESS

PRESIDENT → VICE PRESIDENT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SENATE

SUPREME COURT

Balance of Power



- Each branch has its own responsibilities and at the same time the branches work together to make the country run smoothly and to assure that the rights of citizens are not ignored or disallowed.
- This is done through checks and balances. A branch may use its powers to check the powers of the other two in order to maintain a balance of power among the three branches of government.

Checks & Balances



JUDICIAL BRANCH
Upholds federal and state constitutions and other laws

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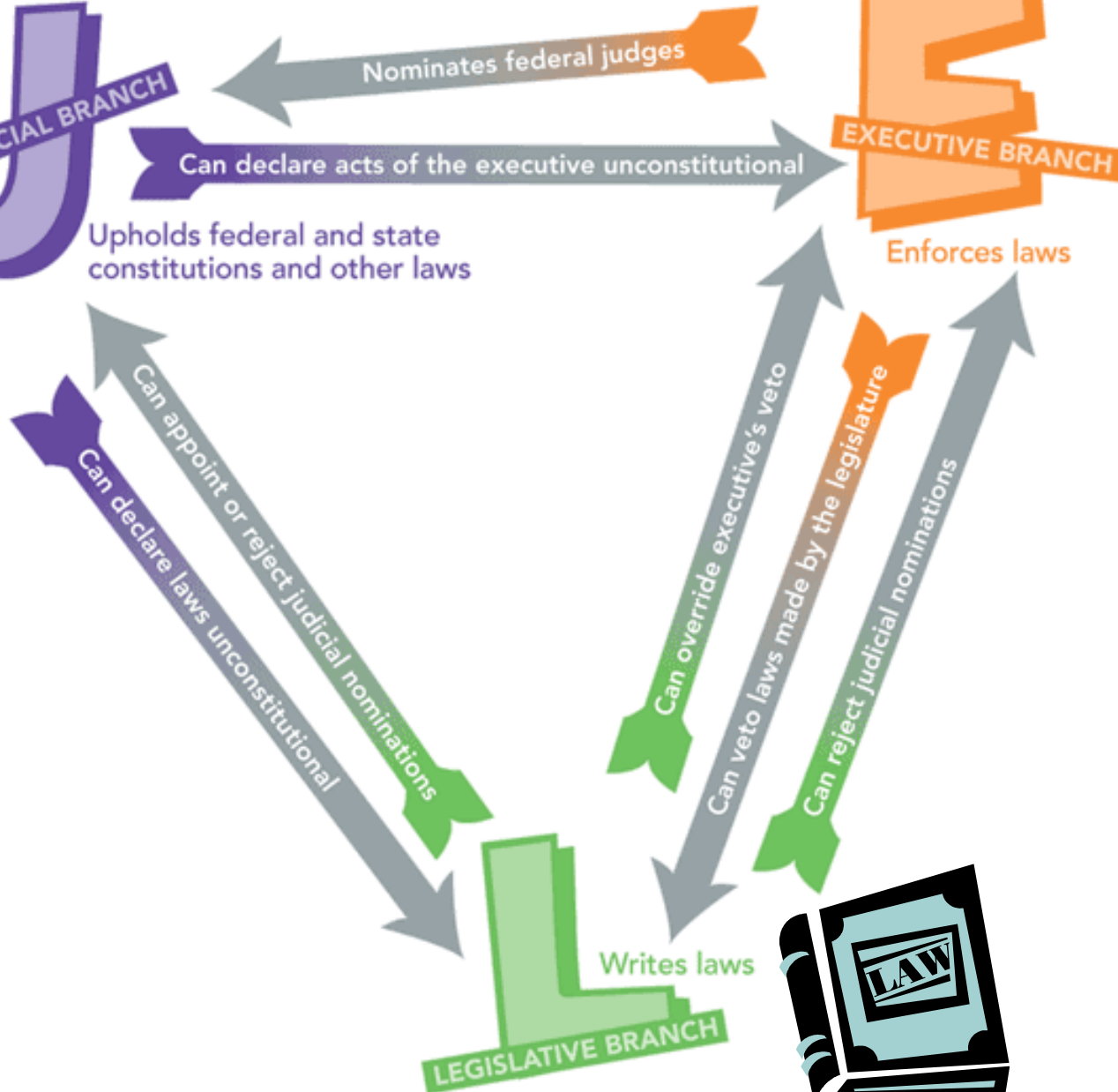
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Enforces laws

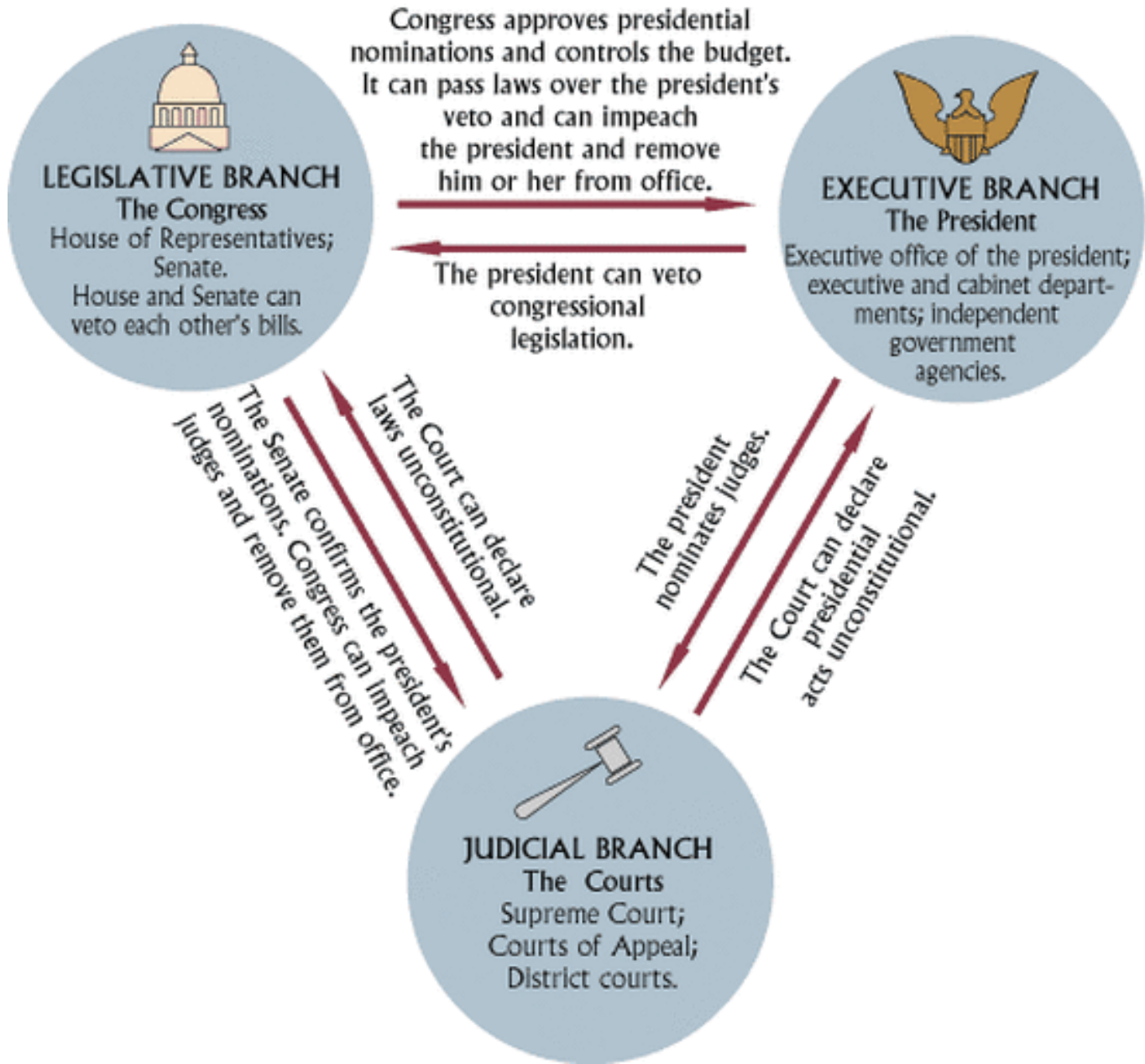
Enforces laws



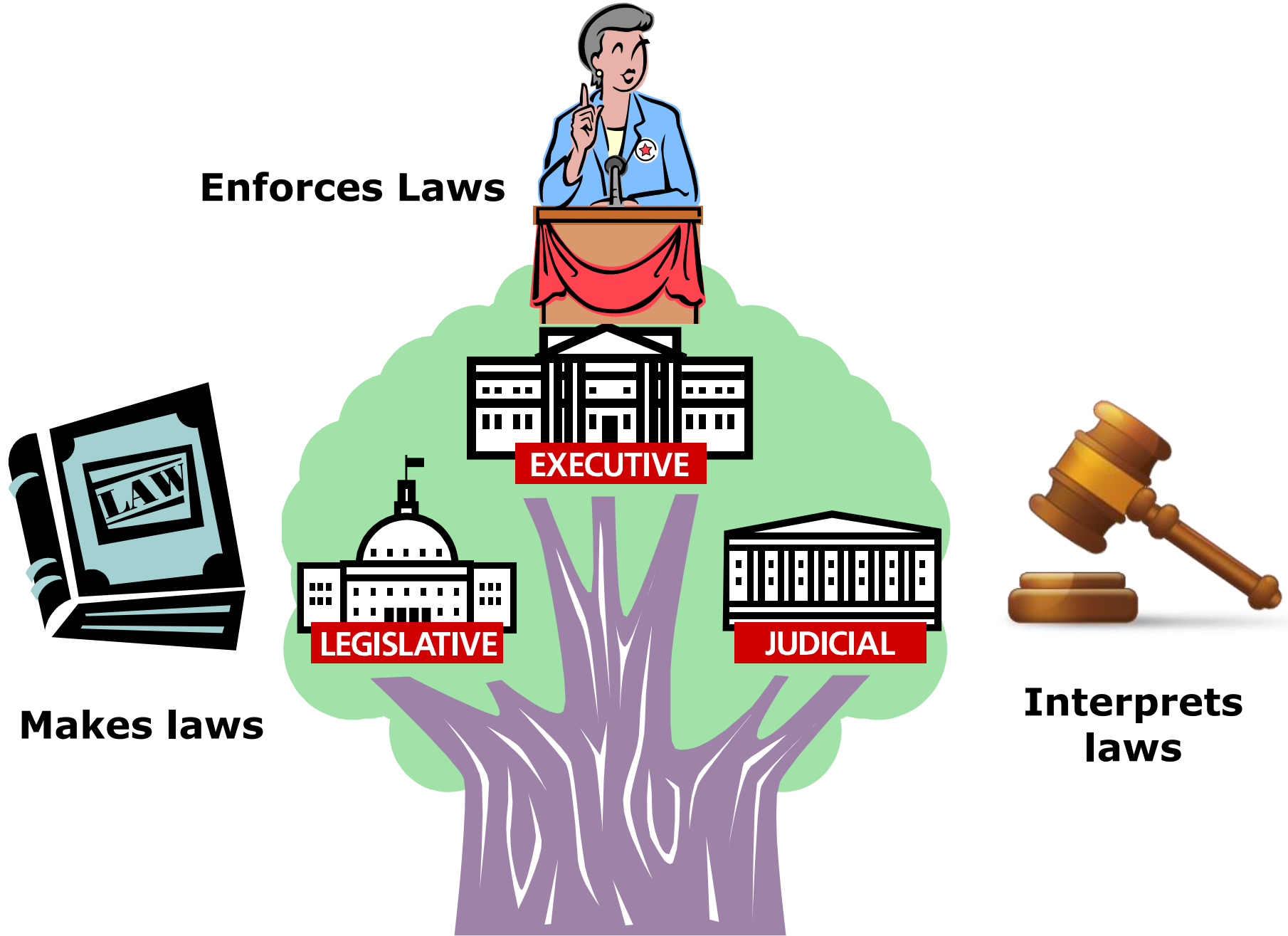
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
Writes laws

Writes laws



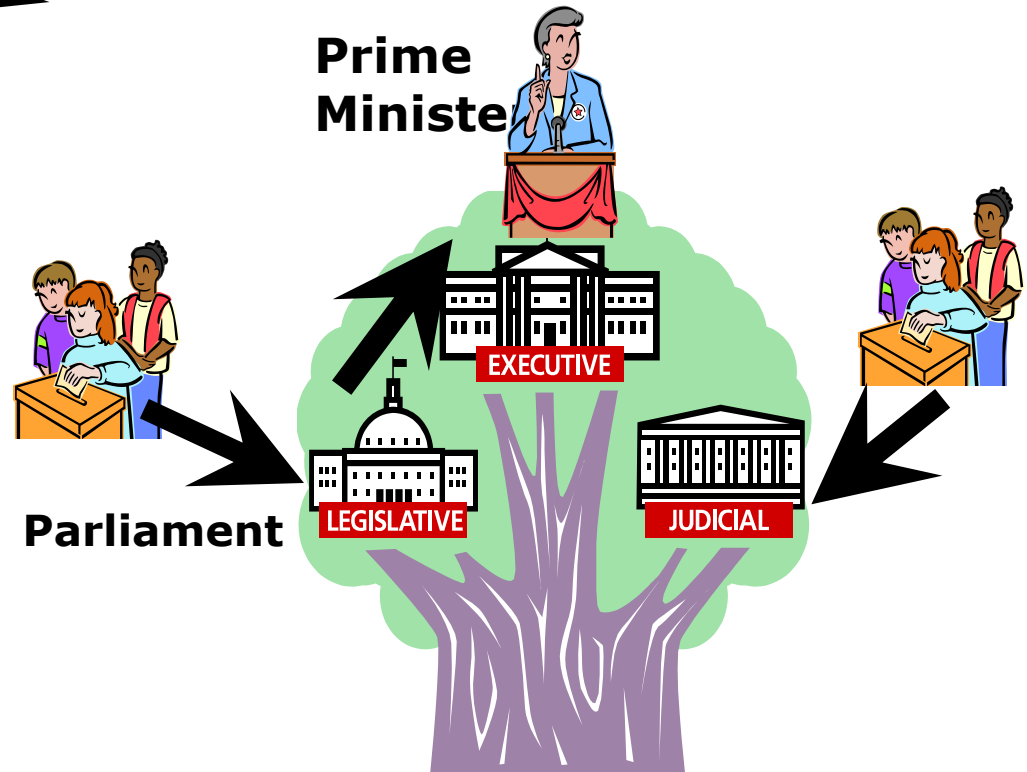
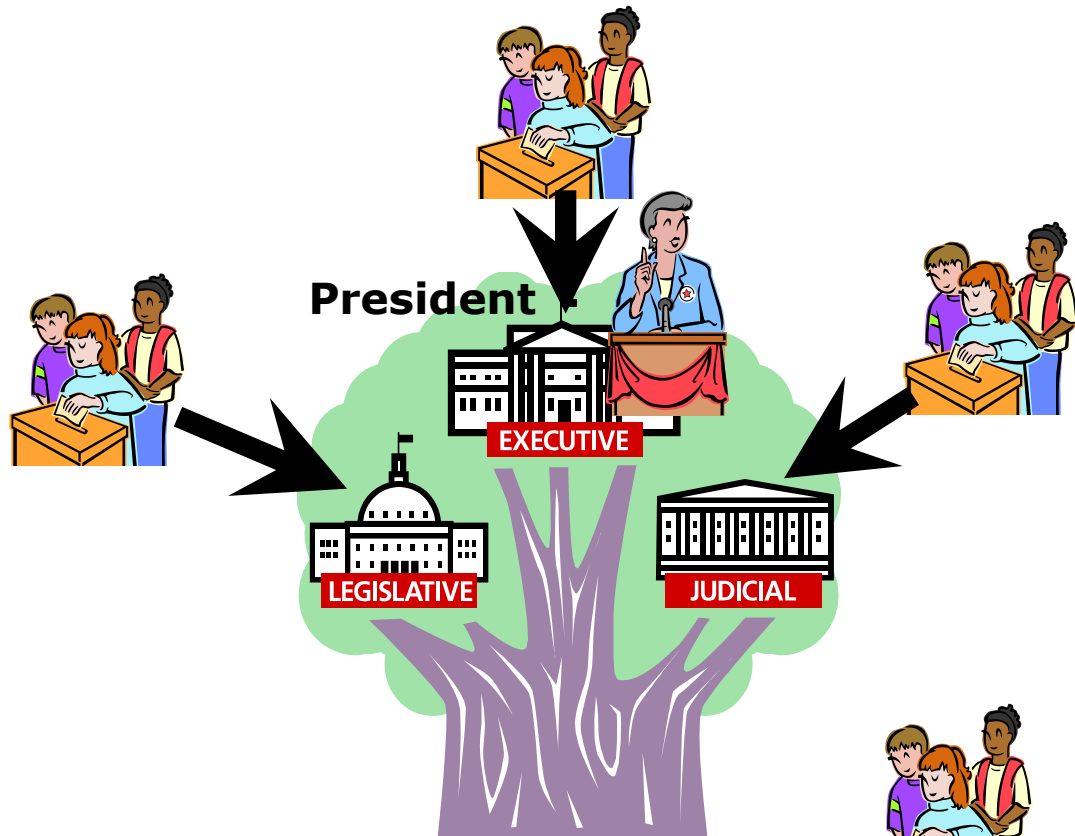


Branches of Government



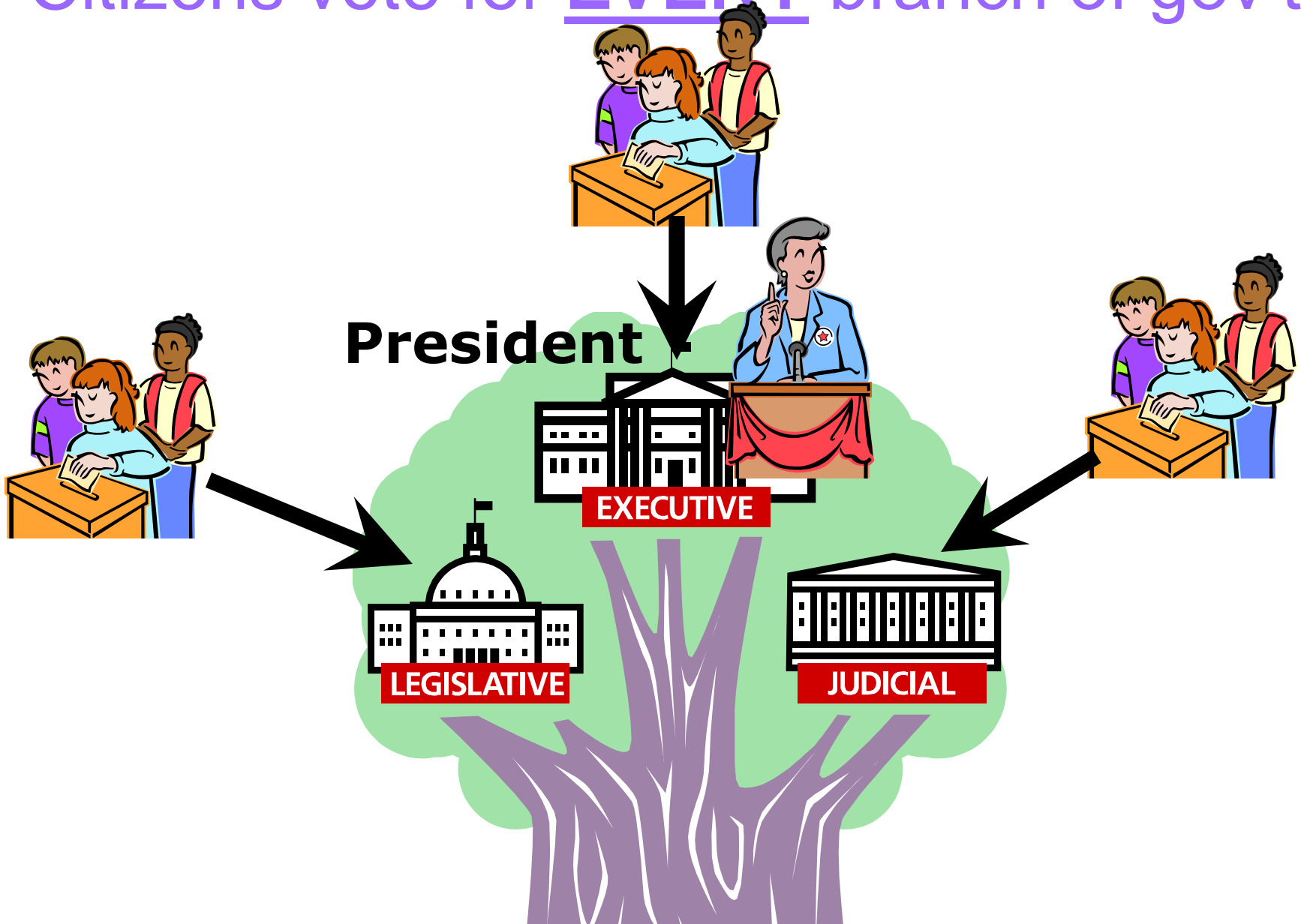
What is the difference between these 2 pictures?

The citizens vote for the branches of government differently



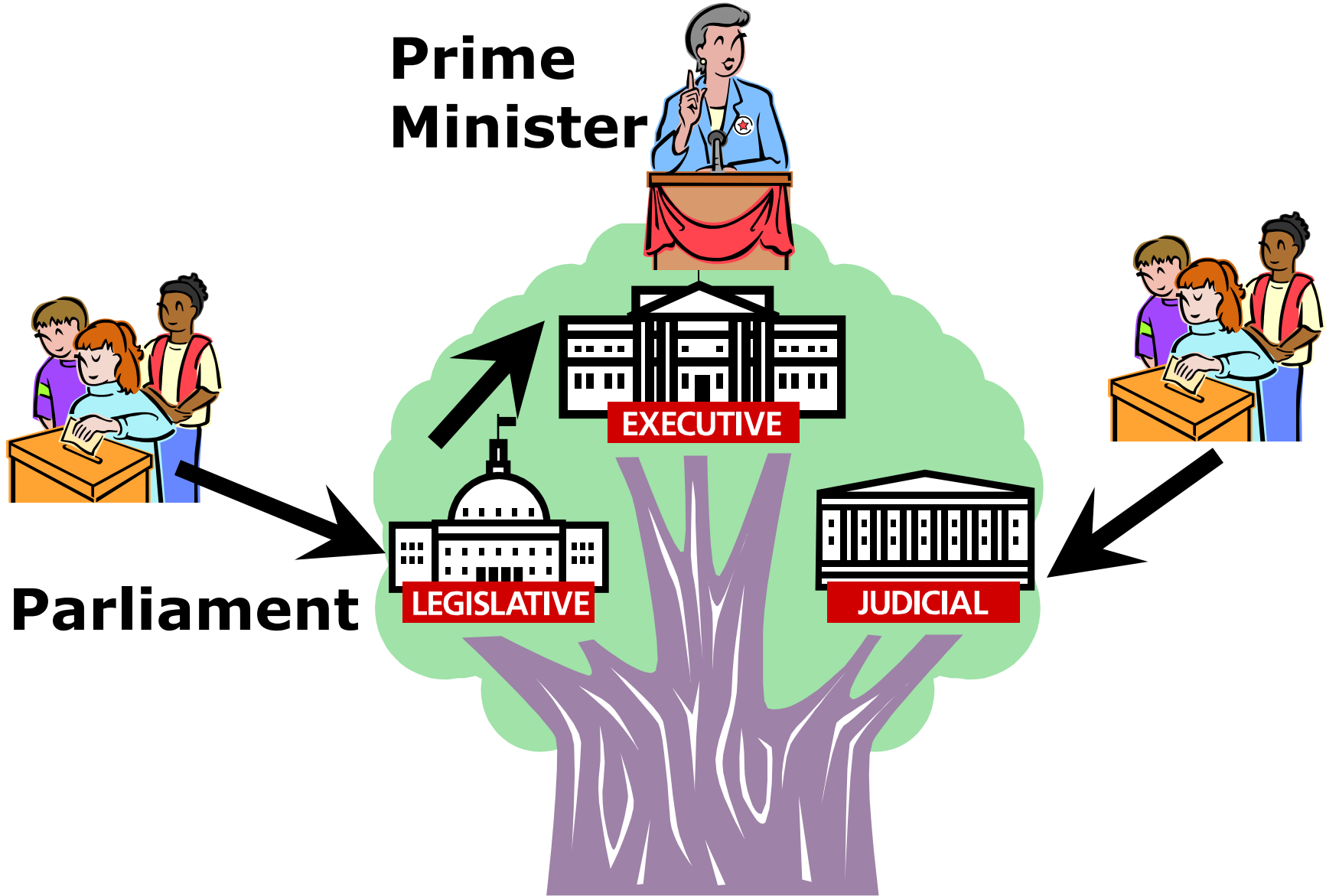
Presidential Democracy

Citizens vote for EVERY branch of gov't




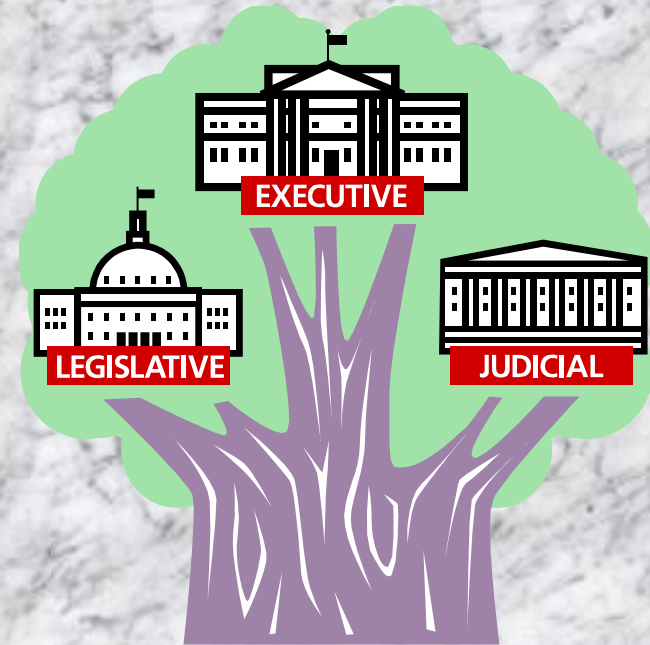
Parliamentary Democracy

Citizens DO NOT vote for Executive Branch



Presidential Democracy (definition)

- Executive branch is independent from the legislature 
- Head of the executive branch (president) elected by citizens, not the legislature



Presidential Democracy (characteristics)



- Different branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) are equal in power



- Leader is called a president

- **EXAMPLE** U.S.A., Mexico, Brazil



Presidential Democracy

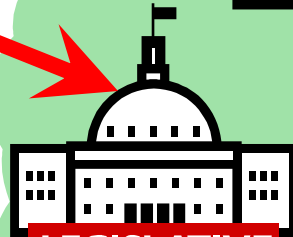
Citizens vote for EVERY branch of gov't



President



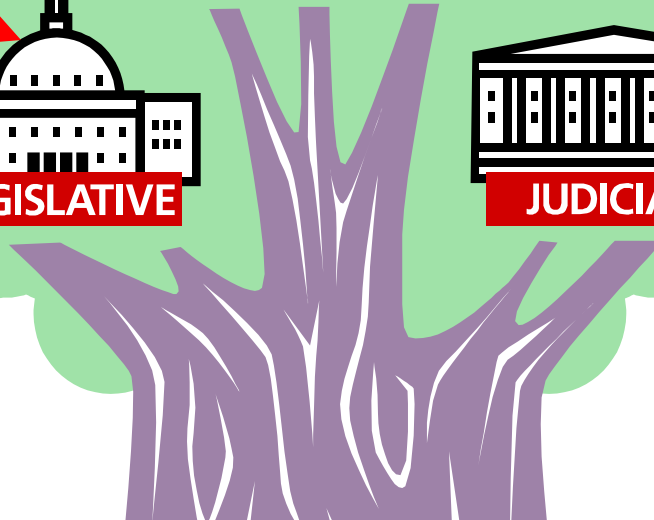
EXECUTIVE



LEGISLATIVE



JUDICIAL



Parliamentary Democracy

(definition)

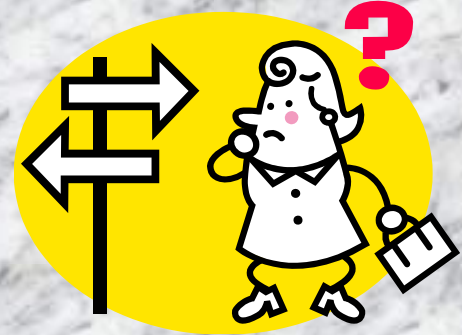
- executive branch is dependent on legislative branch (Parliament)
- Head of executive branch (Prime Minister) elected by the legislature, not the citizens



Parliamentary Democracy

(characteristics)

- **NO clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches**
- **Legislature makes most decisions**
- **Leader is called a prime minister**



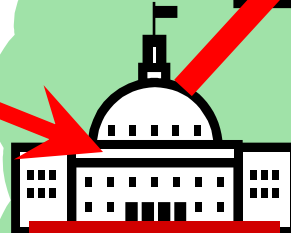
Parliamentary Democracy

Citizens DO NOT vote for Executive Branch

Prime Minister



EXECUTIVE

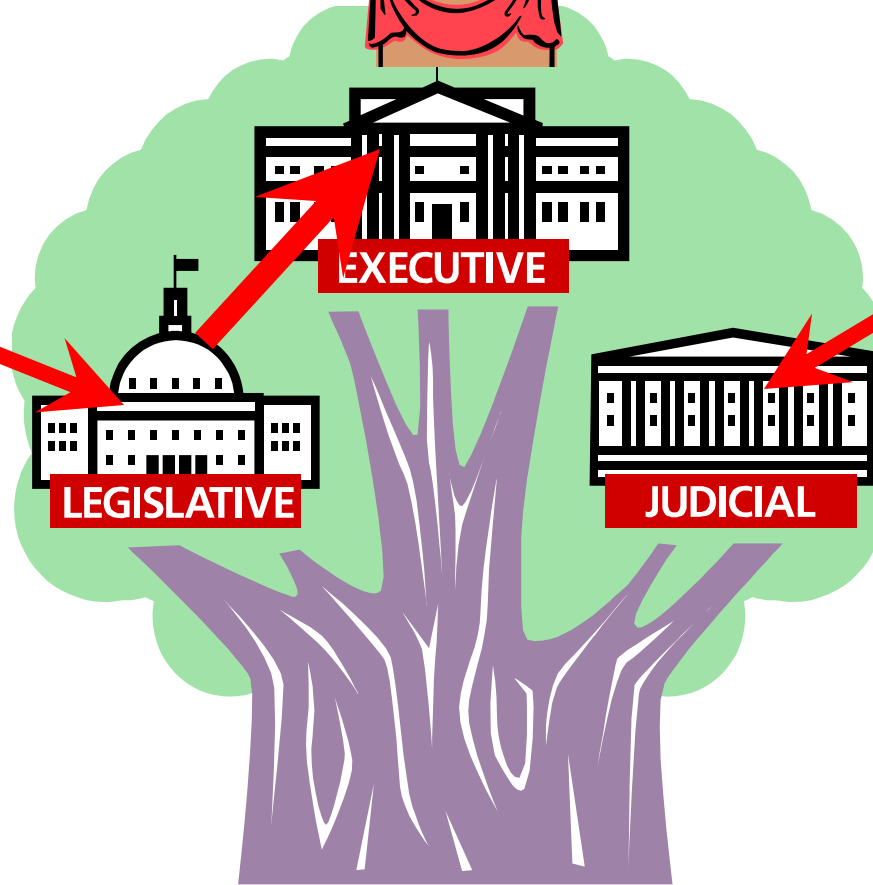


LEGISLATIVE

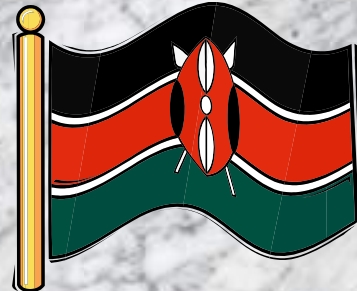
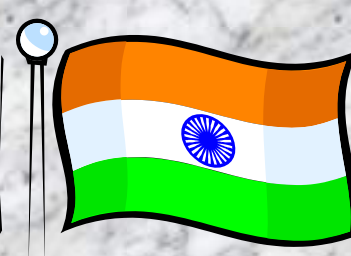
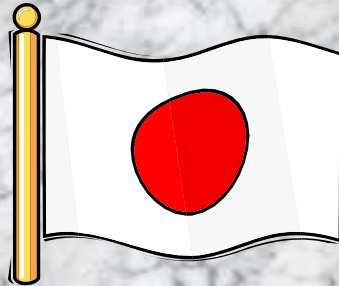
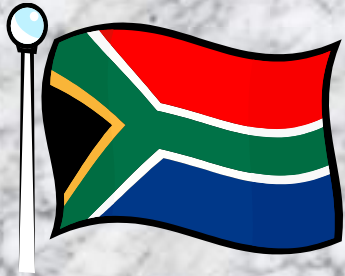


JUDICIAL

Parliament



Examples of Parliamentary Democracy



U.K., Canada, Germany, Australia

