County

A division of local government. There are 83 counties in Michigan.

An Idea

Any citizen can present an idea for a local law to the city council.

The Three Branches of Local Government in the State of Michigan

Village	A community of people with a smaller population
Township	A division of a county with varying governmental power
City	A community of people with a larger population

City Hall	The place where a city's leaders work to enforce local laws or ordinances
City Council Meetings	The place where the city council makes the laws
Police & Fire Chiefs	They enforce local laws with the help of city directors and inspectors

Jury	A group of citizens chosen to interpret laws and deliver verdicts
Judge	A person elected to interpret laws and deliver verdicts
Court System	The place where the judicial branch interprets the laws

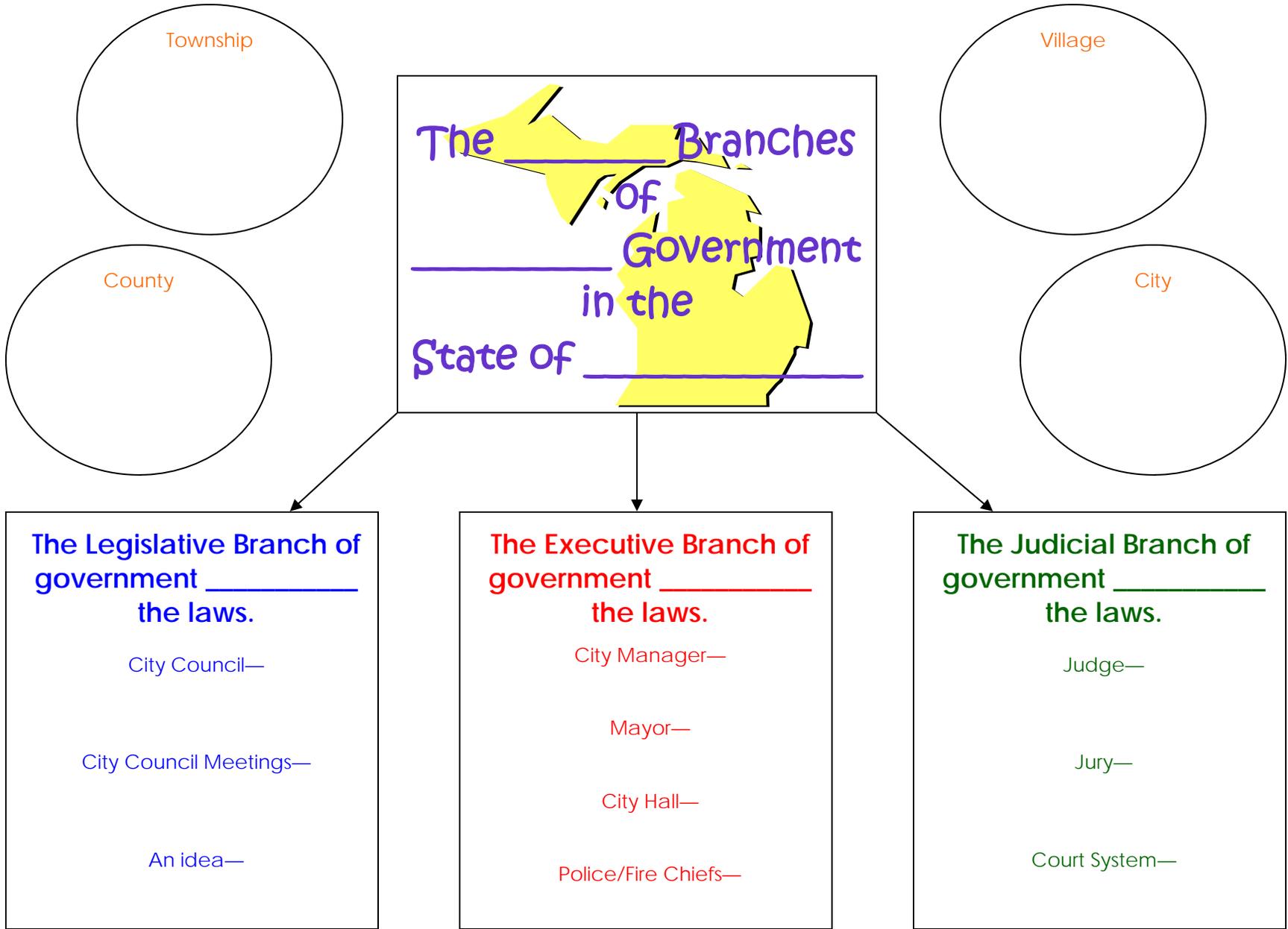| City Manager	The hired or appointed leader of local government
Mayor	The elected leader of local government
City Council	The elected officials that make local laws

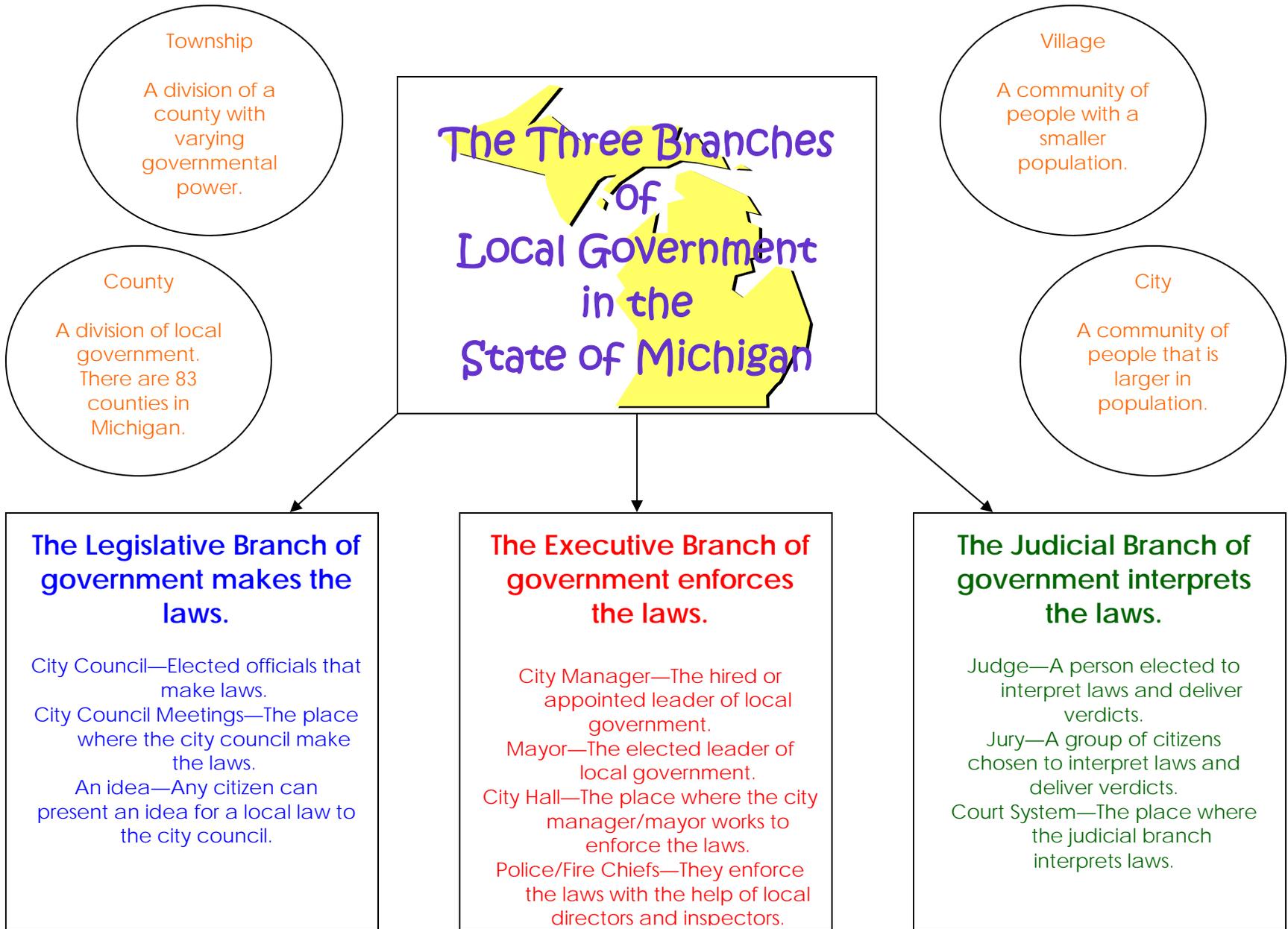| Legislative	The branch of government that makes the laws
Executive	The branch of government that enforces the laws
Judicial	The branch of government that interprets the laws

Township

County

The _____ Branches of _____ Government in the State of _____

Village

City

The Legislative Branch of government _____ the laws.

City Council—

City Council Meetings—

An idea—

The Executive Branch of government _____ the laws.

City Manager—

Mayor—

City Hall—

Police/Fire Chiefs—

The Judicial Branch of government _____ the laws.

Judge—

Jury—

Court System—

Who's Got the Power dl 2—student

Township

A division of a county with varying governmental power.

County

A division of local government. There are 83 counties in Michigan.

The Three Branches of Local Government in the State of Michigan

Village

A community of people with a smaller population.

City

A community of people that is larger in population.

The Legislative Branch of government makes the laws.

City Council—Elected officials that make laws.
City Council Meetings—The place where the city council make the laws.
An idea—Any citizen can present an idea for a local law to the city council.

The Executive Branch of government enforces the laws.

City Manager—The hired or appointed leader of local government.
Mayor—The elected leader of local government.
City Hall—The place where the city manager/mayor works to enforce the laws.
Police/Fire Chiefs—They enforce the laws with the help of local directors and inspectors.

The Judicial Branch of government interprets the laws.

Judge—A person elected to interpret laws and deliver verdicts.
Jury—A group of citizens chosen to interpret laws and deliver verdicts.
Court System—The place where the judicial branch interprets laws.

City Council Scavenger Hunt
Looking at the Legislative and Executive Branches of Local Government

Legislative Questions:

How many members are on your city/village council? _____

True or False—The city/village council is an elected office.

Name four jobs of the city council:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

When are city council meetings held? _____

Where are city council meetings held? _____

Who are the current city council members? _____

_____

7. How many years are the terms of office? _____

Executive Questions:

Who is the mayor of your city/village? _____

True or False—The mayor is an elected position.

Name two jobs of the mayor:

1 _____

2 _____

Who is your city/village manager? _____

Name three jobs of city/village manager:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Who's Got the Power?

Comparing the Legislative and Executive Branches of Local Government

Legislative	Both	Executive
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Elementary

Position/Opinion Paragraph ~ Persuasive Writing

Student: _____   Date: _____

	Criteria				Pts.
	4	**3**	**2**	**1**	
Position Statement	Position/opinion is clearly stated **at least three times** throughout the paragraph.	Position/opinion is clearly stated **twice** throughout the paragraph.	Position/opinion is clearly stated **once** in the paragraph.	Position/opinion is **not** clearly stated in the paragraph.	____
Supporting Information	At least **three** pieces of evidence support the position/opinion.	**Two** pieces of evidence support the position/opinion.	**One** piece of evidence supports the position/opinion.	**No** evidence supports the position/opinion.	____
Organization	The paragraph is **clearly organized** as an opinion piece.	The paper is **somewhat organized** as an opinion piece.	This is generally **not an organized** opinion paragraph.	It is **not clear** at any point in the paragraph that it is an opinion piece.	____
Tone Of Letter	Tone is **persuasive and clear** throughout the paragraph.	Tone is **persuasive, but not clear** throughout the paragraph.	Tone is **not persuasive or clear**.	Tone is **inappropriate** for this piece.	____
Punctuation, Capitalization & Grammar	Punctuation, capitalization and grammar are **correct**.	There are **one or two errors** in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.	There are **three or four** errors in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.	There are **five or more** errors in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.	____
				Total---->	___

Overall Score: _____/20   Percent: _____%

Comments:

After logging onto you computer, click on Internet Explorer. You can find the blue "e" for explorer in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. Now type in this website address exactly as it is here: **http://bensguide.gpo.gov/**. Click on "3-5" on the kite. When you get to the next screen click on "Branches of Government" and then label this diagram.
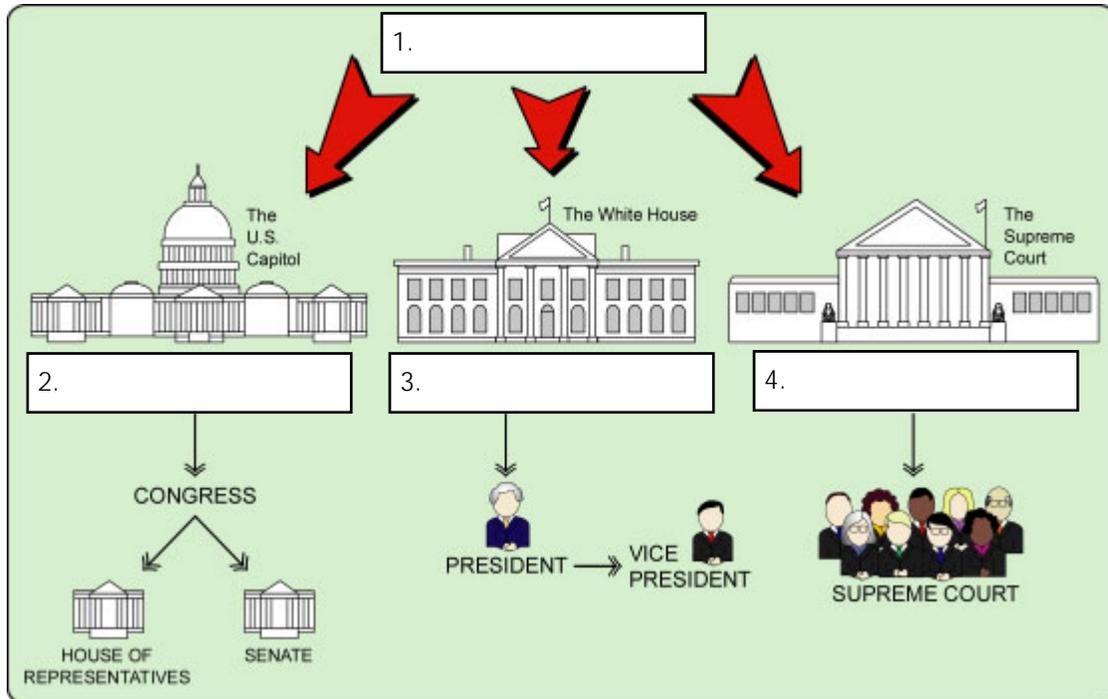
Fill in the blanks based on your reading of this first page.

In 1787, our F_____ F_____ (also called "Framers") gathered in

Philadelphia to write the C_____. They didn't want any one person

or group to have too much power. They decided to separate this power into

three groups...into three branches. They are the L_____, the

E_____, and the J_____ branches

of government. The S_____ of P_____ is

another name for the three branches of government.   (10 pts)

Scroll down & click on Legislative Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The Legislative branch is made up of Congress and Governmental Agencies.

The two houses of Congress are: H_____ of R_____ & The

S_____. Congress has the power to M_____ L_____.

Click "back" & then click on Executive Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The Executive branch makes sure that L_____ are O_____.

The P_____ of the United States is in charge of this branch. He

gets help from the V_____ P_____, D_____

H_____, and I_____ A_____ because this is a

very big job.

Click "back" & then click on Judicial Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The judicial branch of government is made up of the C_____

S_____.   The S_____ C_____ is the

highest court in the land. The courts decide the M_____ of the

L_____, how they should be A_____, and whether they

break the R_____ of the C_____.

If you could work for one branch of government, what would it be and why?
_____

_____

_____ (15 pts)

Scenario #1—A police officer pulls over a red sports car. When he approaches the driver, he asks to see his license and registration. After checking out the driver's information in his police cruiser, the white officer returns and tickets the driver. The officer doesn't ticket the driver for speeding or running a stop sign, but instead tickets him for driving a red car.

What branch of government issued the ticket?
What branch of government will decide whether or not the ticket is fair?
What would happen if there weren't checks and balances in this situation?

Scenario #3—The city council of Rockwood voted that everyone must worship at the Church of Rockwood on Sundays. Some of its citizens were upset and decided to sue the city for taking away their rights as United States' citizens.

What branch of government made the Church of Rockwood law?
What branch of government will decide if the law is constitutional?
What would happen if there weren't checks and balances in this situation?

Scenario #2—A student goes to city hall to see the city manager. He asks the city manager to change a nearby parking lot into a basketball court. The city manager says, "Great idea! Kids will love it. Let's start fixing up the concrete tomorrow."

What branch of government decided that the basketball court could be made?
What branch of government is supposed to make such decisions/laws?
What would happen if there weren't checks and balances in this situation?

Scenario #4—A local judge sentenced a woman to life in prison for littering at a local park. The judge told the woman that the park is a favorite of his kids and that she must pay the price for not putting her trash in the appropriate container.

What branch of government sentenced the woman?
What branch of government will decide if the sentence is fair?
What would happen if there weren't checks and balances in this situation?

Who's Got the Power?
Reflective Journal Entry

Student Name: _____   Date: _____

A. In your own words, what are the three branches of government and what do they do?

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

B. Why do you think governmental power is divided into three branches?

_____

_____

_____

C. What do you think would happen if one person or group had the power of all three branches of government?

_____

_____

_____