Checks and Balances - Worksheet

Checks and Balances
A unique feature of the US political system is the separation of powers and duties of the federal government among the three branches, so that no one person or group has all the power. Read the list below and determine which branch has these powers and duties. Write an L (Legislative), E (Executive), or J (Judicial) beside each of the phrases.

_____ 1. Sign bills into laws
_____ 2. Decides on the meaning of laws
_____ 3. Can pardon people
_____ 4. Can declare war
_____ 5. Commands the armed forces
_____ 6. Appoints judges
_____ 7. Interprets treaties
_____ 8. Can impeach president
_____ 9. Passes laws
_____ 10. Can impeach judges
_____ 11. Enforces laws
_____ 12. Approves treaties

_____ 13. Appoints ambassadors
_____ 14. Appoints top members of executive branch
_____ 15. Makes treaties with foreign governments
_____ 16. Can propose amendments to the Constitution
_____ 17. Approves appointment of ambassadors
_____ 18. Can declare a law unconstitutional.
_____ 19. Approves appointment of judges
_____ 20. Can overturn a president’s veto

Who makes up this branch?

Branch

Duty: ______________________

Laws

Who makes up this branch?

Branch

Duty: ______________________

Laws

Who makes up this branch?