**Academic Vocabulary— Social Studies, 5–8** (adapted from *Building Academic Vocabulary* by Robert Marzano.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide a student-friendly description, explanation, or example of the term.</th>
<th>Students restate in their own words in writing...</th>
<th>Students construct a picture, symbol, or graphic representation of the term...</th>
<th>Students discuss terms with one another—comparing pictures, descriptions and make additions revisions to notebook entries...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT</strong> Delegates at the Constitutional Convention wanted to divide power within the federal government. They did not want these powers to be controlled by just one man or one group. The delegates were afraid that if a small group received too much power, the United States would wind up under the rule of another dictator or tyrant.</td>
<td>We have 3 branches of government so that power can be divided—that way, one man or group can’t become too powerful.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXECUTIVE BRANCH</strong> headed by the president who carries out federal laws and recommends new ones, directs national defense and foreign policy. Powers: directs government, commands Armed Forces, deals with international powers, acts as chief law enforcement officer &amp; vetoes laws.</td>
<td>Branch of government that carries out the law—headed by the President</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**
headed by Congress (House of Representatives and the Senate). The main task is to make the laws. Its powers include passing laws, originating spending bills (House), impeaching officials (Senate), and approving treaties (Senate).

Branch of government that *makes* the law—includes both houses of Congress (Senate & House of Representatives)

Legislate= **MAKE** the Law

Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**
headed by the Supreme Court. Powers include interpreting the Constitution, reviewing laws, & deciding cases involving states’ rights.

Branch of government that *enforces* the law—includes the court system (headed by Supreme Court)

Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.

Engage students periodically in *games and activities* that help them add to their knowledge of the terms. Many examples can be found in chapter 4 of *Building Academic Vocabulary* by Robert Marzano.