Legislative Branch Checks and Balances Internet Hunt

1. Look up the case *McCulloch v. Maryland*

Briefly describe the background of the case (what is the story of the case?):

What is the constitutional issue in the case?

How did the Supreme Court rule? Why?

How did this ruling impact the power of the Congress?

2. Look up the case *US v. Lopez*

Briefly describe the background of the case (what is the story of the case?):

What is the constitutional issue in the case?

How did the Supreme Court rule? Why?

How did this ruling impact the power of the Congress?

3. Look up the “War Powers Act of 1973”

What did this law do?

Why did Congress pass this law?

What did President Nixon do when this bill was sent to him?

How did Congress react to President Nixon’s decision on this bill?

4. Look up Robert Bork

When was he nominated to the Supreme Court? Who nominated him?

What happened to his nomination?

What did the President have to do as result of Congress’ decision?

5. Look up Betsy Devos

What position did President Trump nominate her for?

What was the Senate vote on her nomination?

What was unique about the vote on her nomination?

6. Look up the Treaty of Versailles (1919)

What conflict did this treaty deal with?

Briefly tell the story of what happened to this treaty in the US Senate:

What did president’s start to use more in the second half of the 20th century instead of treaties?

7. Find another example of check and balance involving Congress in the last 5 years

What happened?

What check was being used?

Did this story demonstrate the strength or weakness of Congress in your opinion? Explain.