

Some members of Congress were leaders in other areas of American life before they became Congressmen and Congresswomen. For example, John Lewis, a Congressman from Georgia, was a leader in the struggle for African American civil rights in the 1960s.

The president is the head of the **executive branch**. This branch is in charge of carrying out the laws that are written by Congress. The president is also the head of our country's armed forces. Citizens vote for the president in a national election.

The executive branch includes the vice president and a group of officials called the Cabinet. The Cabinet advises the president on education, health, and the economy. It also gives advice on international issues, such as foreign trade and wars.

The **judicial branch** makes sure that our nation's laws agree with the Constitution. The highest level of the judicial branch is the Supreme Court. Nine justices make up the Supreme Court. Supreme Court justices are not elected. They are appointed by the president and then approved by the Senate. Once they are approved, Supreme Court justices can serve for their entire life.

1. ☒ **Reading Check**
Turn to a partner and **describe** the three branches of government.

The Three Branches of Government

