

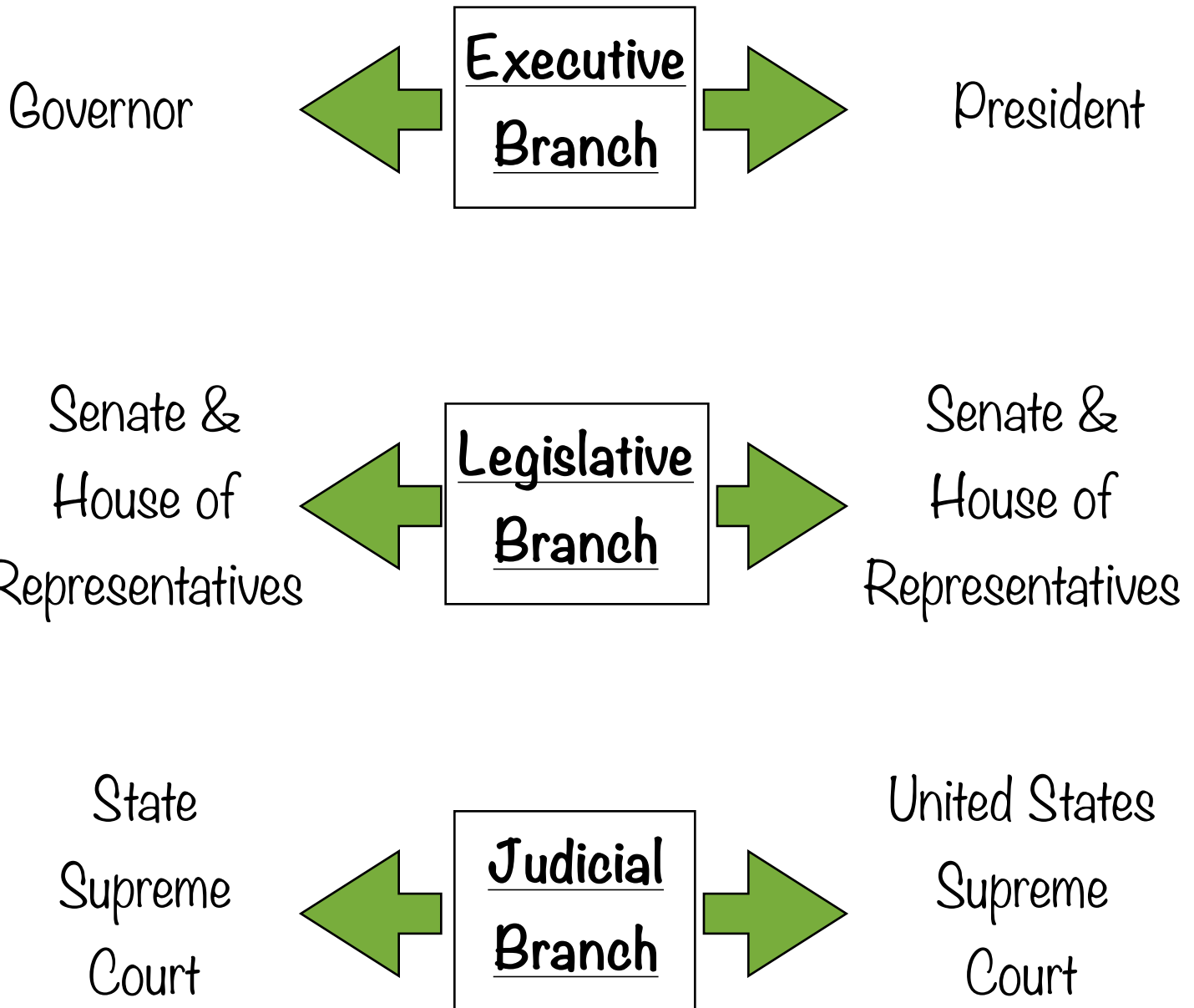
# Three Branches of Government

Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Just like the Federal Government, Michigan's government is broken into three branches. Some of the titles are different, but the structure and duties are the same.

## Michigan

## United States



# Michigan's State Government

Legislative  
Branch

Executive  
Branch

Judicial  
Branch

Make Laws

Enforce Laws

Interpret Laws

Legislature

Governor

Michigan Supreme  
Court and other  
state courts

In Michigan we divide the representatives into three branches of government. Each branch has its own powers so no person or branch has too much power. The **Legislative Branch** has the important job of making our laws, that's why there are so many representatives in the legislative branch. They work in the State Capitol Building, in Lansing. You can take a tour of the Capitol Building on the web site.

## Michigan's State Capitol Building



The **Executive Branch** enforces the laws and is lead by the governor, currently Rick Snyder. We elect a governor every four years and that person can serve two terms. The governor is assisted by a lieutenant governor (like an assistant principal at your school) and many other people that make up his cabinet.

The **Judicial Branch** interprets the laws. This means they decide what our laws mean and how they effect people. The highest court is the State Supreme Court. There are also District Courts in our local communities. These smaller courts handle smaller issues like traffic tickets, car accidents and other local issues.

## Michigan's Supreme Court Building

