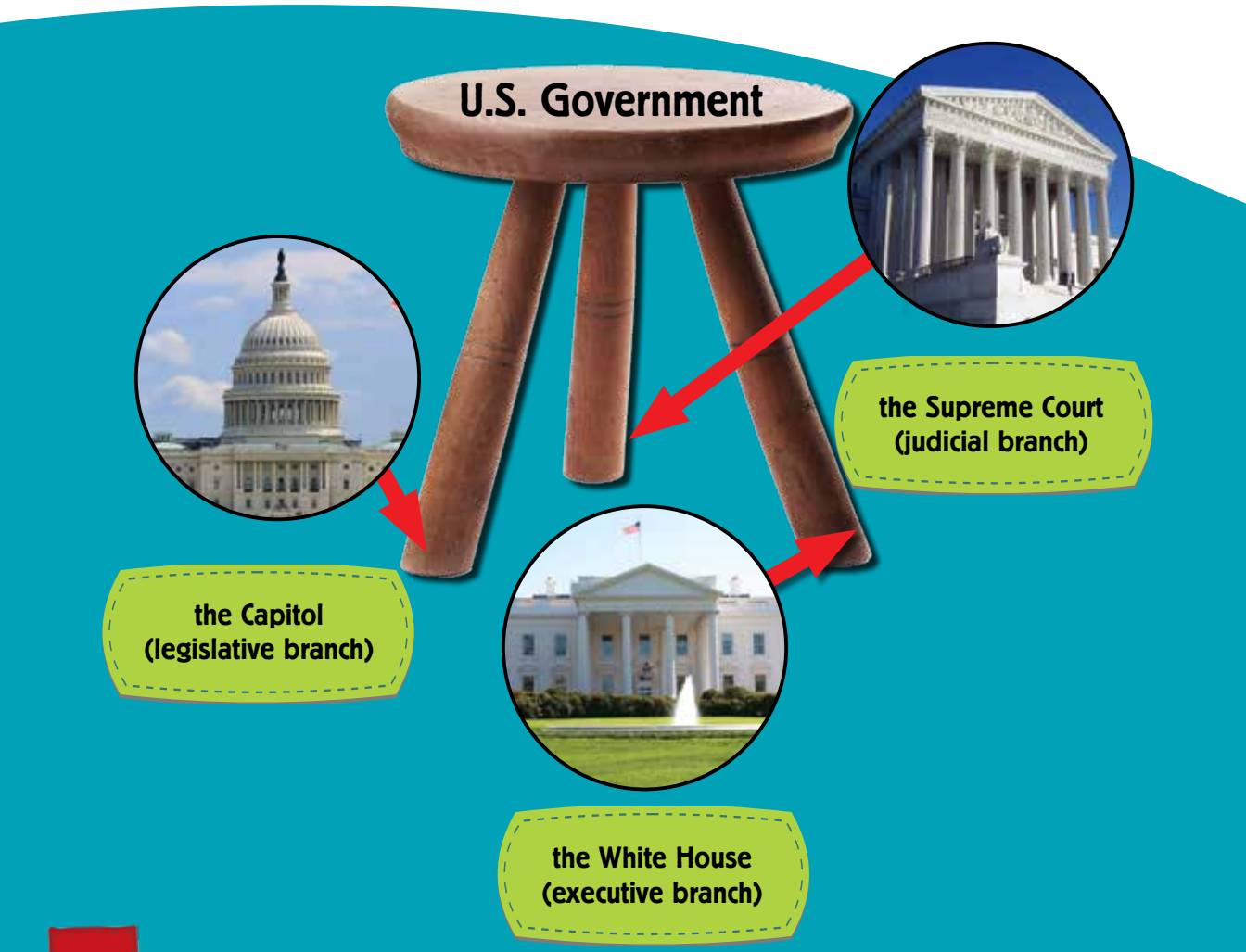
The Three Branches

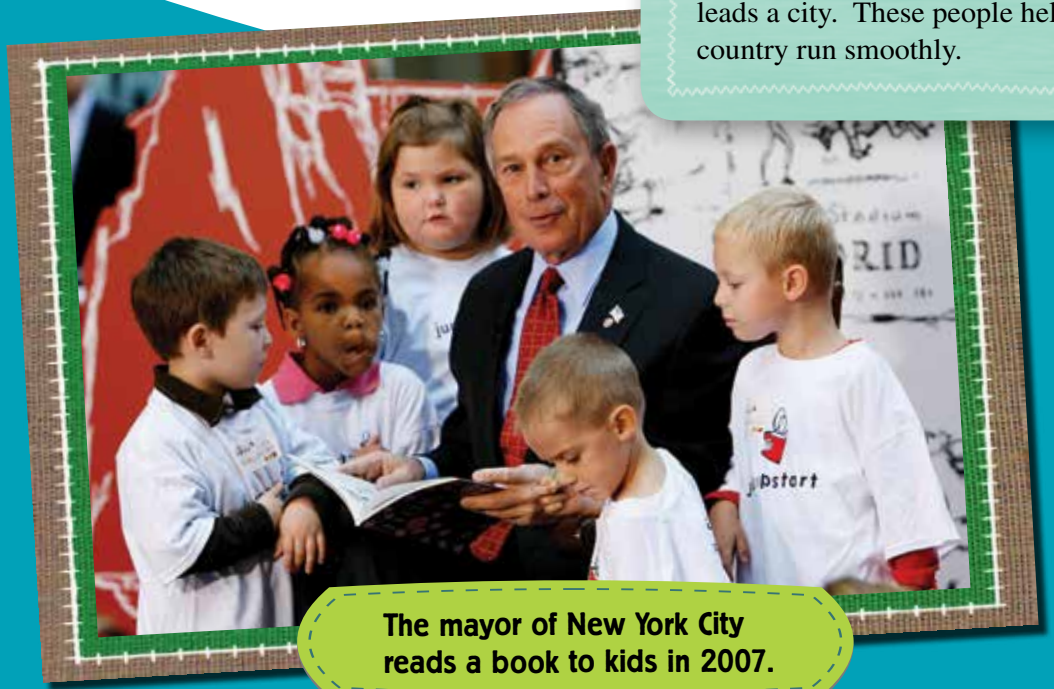
Our government is made up of three parts called *branches*. They are like legs on a stool. Each leg is different. But they are all part of the same stool. If one leg is taken away, the stool will not stand.



In the U.S. government, each branch balances the others. And each branch makes sure the other branches do their jobs well. Every branch has an important role to play. But no branch has too much power. The three branches are the executive (ig-ZEK-you-tiv) branch, the legislative (LEJ-is-ley-tiv) branch, and the judicial (joo-DISH-uhl) branch.

From City to Country

The president leads the country. A governor leads a state. A mayor leads a city. These people help our country run smoothly.



The mayor of New York City reads a book to kids in 2007.