

New Bedford Public Schools
Division of Adult & Continuing Education

New Bedford High School Evening Extension

2019 – 2020 School Year
Trimester III

Learning Packet #3
for
U.S. History I

Teacher: *Ryan J. Mitchell, M.S.Ed*
Special Education Department
New Bedford High School
230 Hathaway Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02740
rmitchell@newbedfordschools.org

Email Mr. Mitchell with questions/concerns regarding
this packet at the email address listed above.

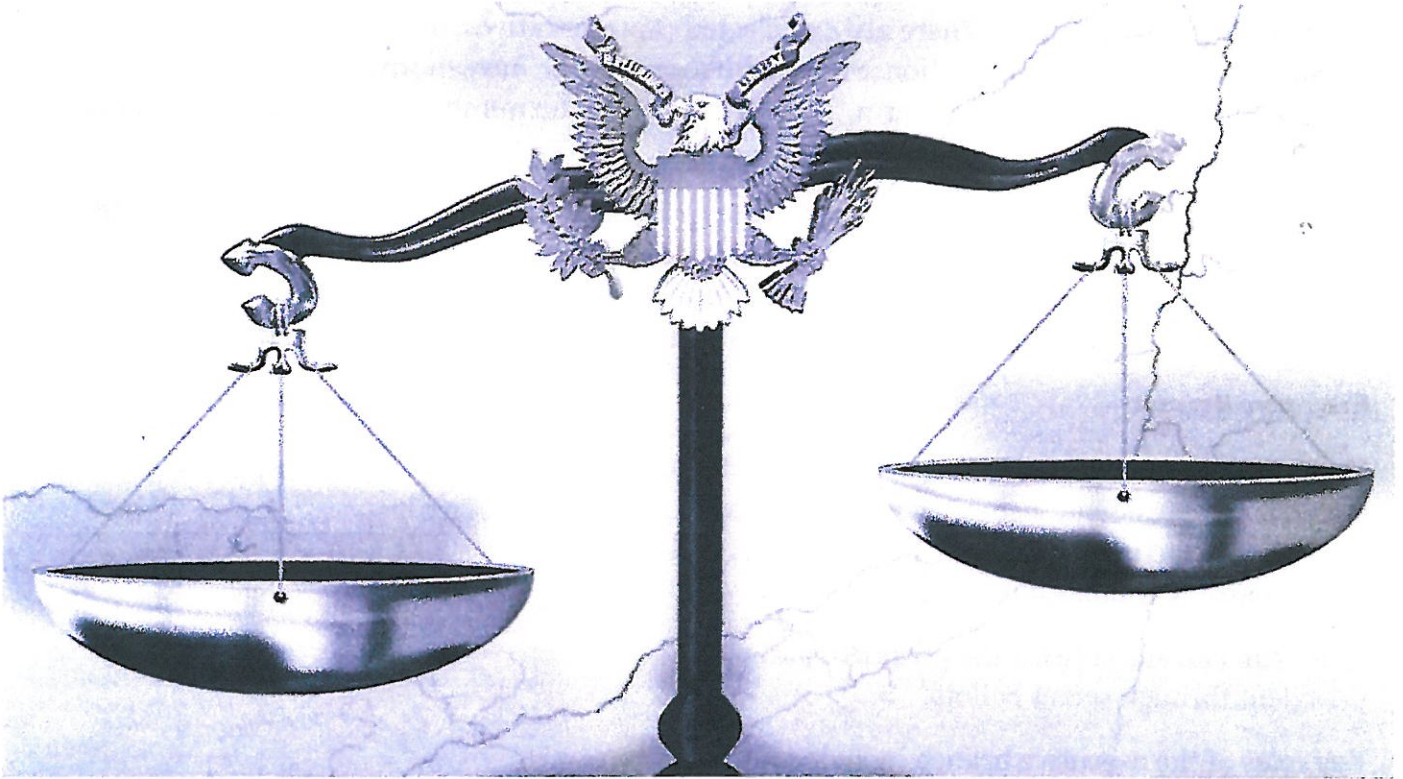
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Our system of checks and balances

By Whitehouse.gov and USA.gov, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.07.16

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Scales of Justice. Image by DonkeyHotey, Wikimedia.

The Founding Fathers had an important goal when they wrote the U.S. Constitution: they wanted to create a form of government that did not allow any one person to have too much control. To accomplish this, they created three branches of government. Each branch has its own responsibilities, but each also works together to make the country run smoothly. The government also includes a system called checks and balances. One branch may use its powers to check the powers of the other two, which helps maintain a balance of power among the three branches of government.

The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches. These branches are:

Legislative — Makes laws (Congress)

Executive — Carries out laws (president, vice president, Cabinet)

Judicial — Evaluates laws (Supreme Court and other courts)

Each branch of government can change acts of the other branches.

The legislative branch primarily works on creating laws. The legislative branch also confirms or rejects presidential appointments and has the authority to declare war.

This branch includes Congress, which is made up of the Senate and House of Representatives. American citizens vote for senators and representatives through free, confidential ballots.

Senate — There are two elected senators per state, totaling 100 senators. A senate term is six years, and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

House of Representatives — There are 435 elected representatives, divided among the 50 states in proportion to the state's population. States with more people have more representatives. A representative serves a two-year term. There's no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

Proposed laws that the legislative branch creates are called bills. They are sent to the president for his signature. For a bill to become a law, the president must sign the bill. In order for it to even get to the president, both the House and the Senate must pass the same bill. In order for the bill to pass, a majority of the senators and representatives must vote in favor of it.

Executive Branch

The executive branch carries out and enforces laws. It includes the president; vice-president; the Cabinet; executive departments; independent agencies; and other boards, commissions and committees.

American citizens vote for the president and vice-president through secret ballots.

Key roles of the executive branch include:

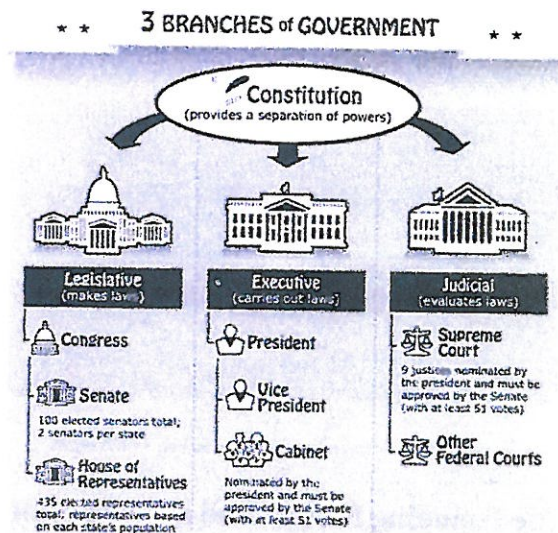
President — The president leads the country. This includes being the head of the federal government and the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The president serves a four-year term and can be elected no more than two times. The president has the power either to sign bills into law or to reject them. When the president rejects a bill, it is called a veto. Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds vote.

The executive branch also maintains relationships with other nations. The president has the power to make and sign treaties, which are agreements with other countries. They must be supported by two-thirds of the Senate.

The president can also issue executive orders. Executive orders direct executive officers and clarify and further existing laws. The president also has the power to forgive — or "pardon" — people for federal crimes.

Vice president — The vice president supports the president. If the president is unable to serve, the vice president becomes president. He or she can serve an unlimited number of four-year



terms. The vice president also serves as the president of the U.S. Senate, where he or she casts the deciding vote in the case of a tie.

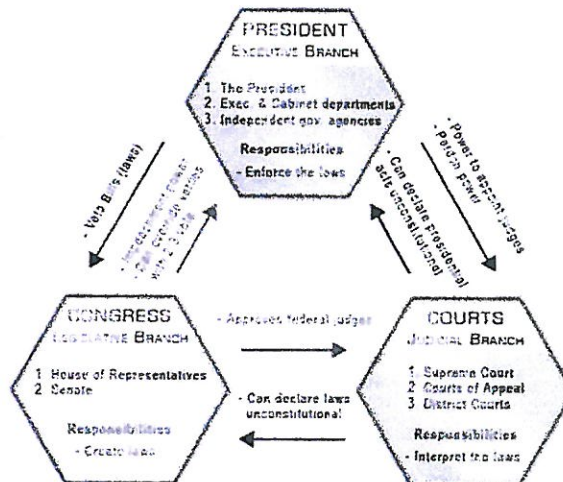
The Cabinet — Cabinet members serve as advisors to the president. They include the vice president and the heads of executive departments. The Cabinet members are in charge of 15 different departments. One is the Department of Education. Cabinet members are nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch interprets the meaning of laws and applies it to individual cases. It also decides if laws go against the Constitution.

The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

Supreme Court — The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. The justices of the Supreme Court are nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate (with at least 51 votes). Nine justices serve on the Supreme Court. There is no fixed term for justices. They serve until they die, they retire or they are removed in extreme situations where they are unable to do their job.



Quiz

- 1 The author mainly explains the importance of each branch of government by:
 - (A) identifying the different parts that are included in each branch
 - (B) describing the responsibilities of each branch
 - (C) identifying who is elected and who is nominated in each branch
 - (D) describing the term limits of each branch

- 2 In the section "Executive Branch," why does the author mention the Department of Education when describing the role of the Cabinet?
 - (A) to identify the most important department in the Cabinet
 - (B) to give an example of a department led by a Cabinet member
 - (C) to explain how Cabinet members are selected by the department
 - (D) to point out the source of most of the advice that the president receives

- 3 Based on the article, why does the chart titled "3 Branches of Government" show a line going from Congress to the Senate and the House of Representatives?
 - (A) because Congress votes on the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives
 - (B) because Congress is more important than the Senate and the House of Representatives
 - (C) because Congress nominates the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives
 - (D) because Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives

- 4 Look at the graphic that comes at the end of the section "Executive Branch."
Which of these sentences from the article is BEST illustrated by the graphic?
 - (A) One branch may use its powers to check the powers of the other two, which helps maintain a balance of power among the three branches of government.
 - (B) The legislative branch also confirms or rejects presidential appointments and has the authority to declare war.
 - (C) American citizens vote for the president and vice president through secret ballots.
 - (D) The justices of the Supreme Court are nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate (with at least 51 votes).

Congress in a FLASH

Name: _____

What is Congress?

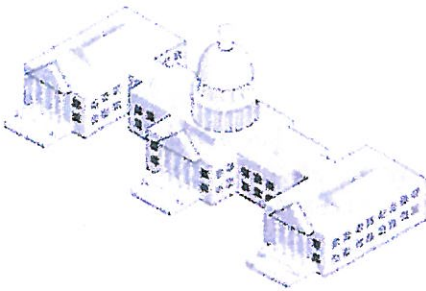
The United States Congress is the **legislative** (lawmaking) branch of our federal government. Congress meets in Washington, D.C. to make **federal laws**—laws that apply to the entire country. Congress is **bicameral**, which means it is made up of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each chamber includes elected officials from all fifty states. Congress was created by the Constitution, and that document describes how this branch of government works.

Legislate: a verb that means "to make laws"

Legislator: a person who makes laws

Legislative: an adjective that means "lawmaking" (the legislative branch is the lawmaking branch)

Legislation: a written document that is or may become a law

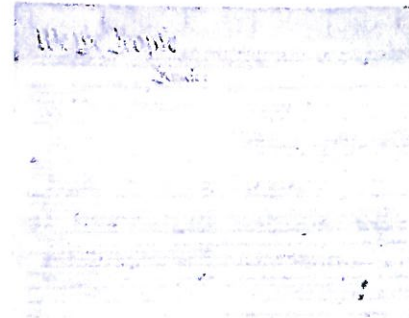


Why Congress?

When the Constitution was written, the goal was to create a government that represented the people. Congress works toward this goal by creating laws that reflect the needs and wants of United States citizens. The work Congress does serves the nation as a whole. Senators help by representing the needs of their entire state, while members of the House (also called Representatives) work for the people in a specific section of their state called a **district**.

How does it work?

All of the instructions for Congress can be found in the first section of the Constitution, Article I. It is the longest section of the Constitution, and it covers a lot of ground. How old do you have to be to serve in Congress? How long do you get to serve? How does Congress relate to the other branches? All of this and more can be found in a close read of Article I, but this handy chart shows some of the basics!



	The Senate	The House of Representatives
Size	Two senators from each state = 100 total	The number of representatives from each state depends on the population = 435 total
Who qualifies?	Senators must be at least 30, a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, and live in the state they represent.	Representatives must be at least 25, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and live in the state and district they represent.
They represent...	... the interests of the citizens across their entire state for a term of six years.	... the interests of the citizens who live in their district (section of a state) for a term of two years.
Special Duties	The Senate approves presidential appointments, like ambassadors, judges, and cabinet members.	All bills that deal with raising money (like taxes) must start in the House.
Checks & Balances	Congress can call for the impeachment of the president, pass bills over a presidential veto with 2/3 vote, and create lower federal courts. The president can veto bills from Congress and the Supreme Court can strike down laws as unconstitutional.	
Role in Lawmaking	A bill can start in either chamber unless it's a tax bill, which must start in the House. A bill must be approved by both chambers of Congress before it can go to the president to be signed into law.	

Congress in a FLASH

Name: _____

The Powers of Congress

The Constitution also lists the powers Congress has that the other branches and the individual states do not have. These are called **enumerated**, expressed, or listed powers. The Constitution doesn't go into much detail, though, which often creates controversy about what Congress is actually allowed to do. Depending on how you count them, there are between 17 and 35 powers on the list. Here are a few:

- Create rules on how to become a citizen
- Collect taxes, pay debts, and borrow money
- Regulate commerce (trade) between the states and with other countries
- Coin money and punish counterfeiters
- Punish pirates (!)
- Establish post offices
- Protect patents and copyrights
- Create lower federal courts
- Declare war, raise and support an Army and Navy
- Make any other laws that are "necessary and proper" to carry out the powers in this list



Nancy Pelosi (D-California) is the current Speaker of the House.

Who's In Charge?

In addition to listing the powers of Congress, the Constitution says who is in charge of each chamber. You may be surprised to learn that the vice president of the United States is also the president of the Senate! (The VP doesn't get a vote though, except when there's a tie.) But the VP can't always be there, so senators also elect a "**president pro tempore**" who leads when the VP isn't available. In the House of Representatives, the leader is called the **speaker of the House**. The representatives vote to decide who their speaker will be. It's an important job—the speaker is second in line to become president of the United States in an emergency, after the Vice President!

Making Laws

Congress makes a law by introducing an idea, discussing and changing it, voting on it, and sending it to the president for approval. The rough draft of a law is called a bill. Bills can start in either chamber of Congress, but the example below starts in the House of Representatives.

1. The Proposal

A representative writes a bill and gets support from others in the House.

2. The Introduction

The bill is assigned a number and is read aloud on the House floor.

3. The Committee Report

The bill is sent to a committee for a close review. If the committee approves, the bill will be sent to all members of the House.

4. The Floor Debate

In the House chamber, members debate whether to support or oppose the bill. The bill is read again, and members suggest changes.

5. The Vote

If changes are made, the bill is read again. Then, the House votes on the bill. Representatives can vote yes, no, or present (if they don't want to vote on that particular bill).

6. The Hand-Off

The bill is sent to the Senate, where it goes through the same debate. Often, changes are made, and the Senate votes to approve the bill with the changes.

7. The Compromise

Members of the House and Senate form a "conference committee" to work out a compromise bill that both chambers can accept.

8. Another Vote

The House and Senate each vote on the compromise bill. The bill can't move on unless both chambers pass the exact same version.

9. To the President!

Finally, the bill lands on the president's desk. Three things could happen:

- The president signs the bill and it becomes law.
- The president ignores the bill. If Congress is in session, the bill automatically becomes law after 10 days. If not, it doesn't.
- The president vetoes the bill. If this happens, Congress can override the veto if 2/3 of the members vote in favor.

Congress in a FLASH

Name: _____

Help the Historian. Someone has found an early copy of the Constitution, but it is in pretty bad shape, and lots of pieces are missing—especially in Article I. Now that you know about Congress, you can help fill in the gaps! Read each excerpt and decide what should go where the numbers are.

SECTION. 2.

(1) shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a (2) who shall not have attained to the Age of (3) Years, and been seven Years a (4) of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, *be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen....* (5)

1. Which chamber of congress is Section 2 talking about?
2. What role is missing here?
3. How old must they be to serve?
4. Seven years of being a what?
5. What does this last part mean? Can you put it in simpler language? (...*be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen...*)

SECTION. 3.

(1a) of the United States shall be composed of two (1b) from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each ... shall have one Vote.

No Person shall be a ...who shall not have attained to the Age of (2) Years, and been (3) Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which *he* (4) shall be chosen.

1. (a) Which chamber of congress is Section 3 talking about? (b) What is this role called?
2. How old must they be to serve?
3. How long must they have been a citizen?
4. FYI: The first woman to be elected to this chamber was Hattie Caraway of Arkansas in 1932.

SECTION. 5.

...Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings (1), punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member ... (2)

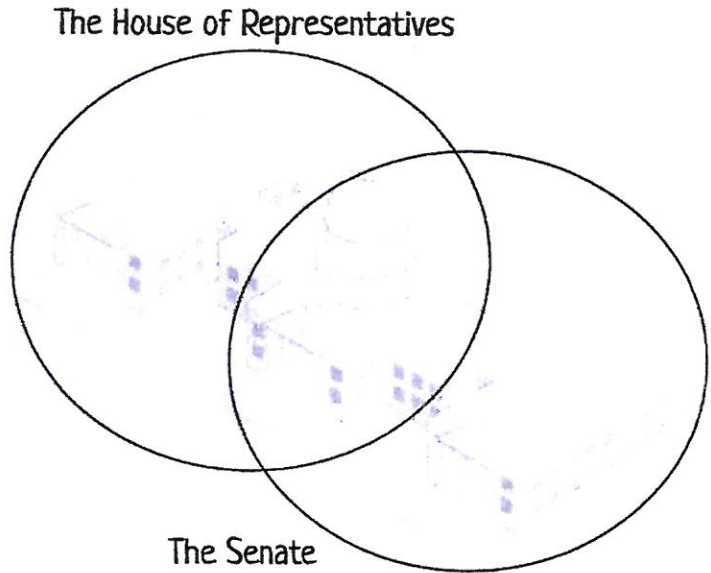
1. Who makes the rules for how the House and Senate do their jobs?
2. CHALLENGE QUESTION: If the Senate wants to expel a member, how many senators have to agree?

Congress in a FLASH

Name: _____

A. Who does what? Read each statement and decide if it is about the House of Representatives, the Senate, or both! Write the letter on the diagram.

- A. Members represent an entire state
- B. Bills about taxes and money must start here
- C. Approves presidential appointments
- D. Members represent citizens
- E. Serve two-year terms
- F. Passes bills to the president to become laws
- G. There are 100 members of this chamber
- H. Can override a presidential veto with a 2/3 vote of support
- I. Must be at least 25 to serve in this chamber
- J. Led by the vice president of the U.S.
- K. Leader is called the "speaker"



B. Compromise! The bills below are based on ideas found in real-life bills aimed at addressing the opioid addiction crisis. Follow the directions to see where common ground might be found.

1. Read Both Bills. Circle the parts that the two versions have in common.

2. Find a Solution. Decide on two compromises that could be made and write them below. This will be your compromise bill.

HOUSE BILL TO COMBAT OPIOID ADDICTION

- Fund addiction treatment programs by taxing companies that make opioids.
- Require training on specific topics for providers registered to prescribe opioids.
- Limit prescriptions to a 10-day supply with no refills.
- Require the diagnosis being treated with opioids to be clearly stated on the prescription.

#1

SENATE BILL TO COMBAT OPIOID ADDICTION

- Impose a fee on people convicted of making or distributing opioids illegally, used to fund addiction treatment programs.
- Require 12 hours of training for providers registered to prescribe opioids.
- Limit prescriptions to a 7-day supply with no refills.
- Require practioners to prescribe a non-opioid painkiller first.

#2

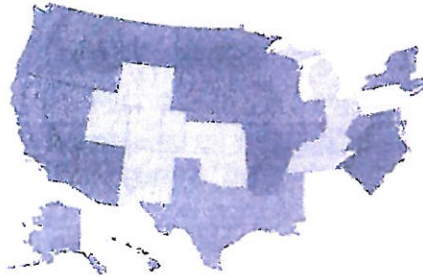
3. Get Support. Which chamber will support your compromise the most? Would they both agree? Explain your answer.

Judicial Branch in a Flash

Name: _____

It's All About the Robes

Actually, it's not. The cool black robes judges wear are the first things a lot of people think of when they hear the word "judicial." But the first thing you really need to know is how courts were created. The only court the United States Constitution actually creates is the **Supreme Court**—the highest court in the country. The Constitution also allows Congress to create other courts. When Congress created those courts, the federal court system was born.



The federal system is divided into districts called **circuits**.

Two Court Systems

Here's the confusing part: There are two systems of courts in the United States. The **federal court system** deals with disputes about laws that apply to the entire United States. **State court systems** mostly deal with disputes about state laws. Each state has its own court system created by its own state constitution. Whether people take their case to a federal or state court depends on the laws involved in the case. The good news is that state court systems usually work just like the federal court system.

Which Court to Use

Each court system deals with certain kinds of cases. Federal courts hear cases involving federal laws, the U.S. Constitution, or disputes between citizens of different states. State courts hear cases involving state laws or the state's constitution. They also deal with disagreements between citizens of the state. State courts normally resolve the kinds of issues you hear about in everyday life, such as family matters, accidents, crimes, and traffic violations.



Most legal issues that people have get resolved in the state court system.

Civil: relating to the rights of citizens

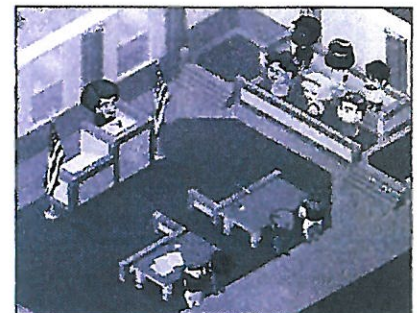
Criminal: relating to crime

Criminal v. Civil

Most trials you see on TV involve a person who has been accused of a crime. But **criminal cases** are not the only kind of cases that go to trial. Sometimes people have a disagreement that they can't resolve on their own. Often, one side feels that the other side violated their rights in some way. This kind of case is called a **civil case**. The goal of a civil case is not to find out whether someone is innocent or guilty, but to decide which side's version of the story is correct.

You're On Trial!

The trial court is the first court to hear a case. Both the state and federal systems have trial courts. In the Federal system, the trial court is called a District Court. In the trial court, lawyers use **evidence** to try to prove that their client's side of the story is what really happened. Evidence can be almost anything—witnesses, videos, photographs, a letter, a piece of fabric, or even a murder weapon! In a **jury trial**, a group of twelve people listen to the evidence and decides who wins the case. That decision is called the **verdict**. In a **bench trial** there is no jury, so the judge gives the verdict.



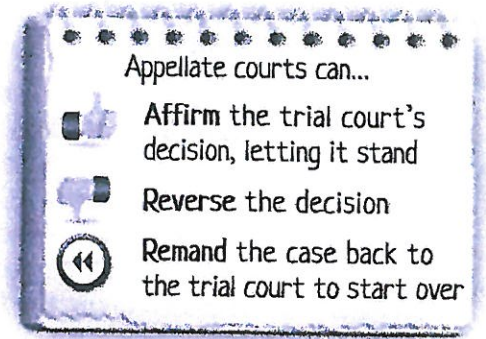
Which roles do you recognize?

Judicial Branch in a Flash

Name: _____

It's Not Over Until It's Over

Losing in the trial court doesn't mean the case is over. If the losing side thinks there's been an error, they can ask a higher court to review the verdict and replace it with a different decision. The courts above the trial court are called **appellate courts**. The federal system and most state systems have two appellate-level courts: a Court of Appeals and a Supreme Court. (Your state might have a different name for these courts!) Asking an appellate court to review a case is called making an **appeal**.



Supreme Court

- Reviews the appeals court decision for error
- Decisions must be followed by all lower courts

Court of Appeals

- Reviews the trial court decision for error
- Decisions must be followed by all trial courts

Trial Court

- Hears cases for the first time
- Reviews evidence to decide who is right



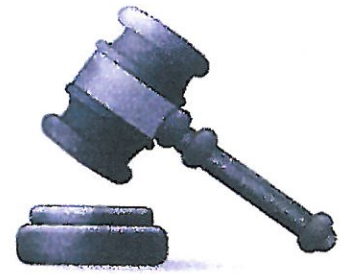
Going Up! (And Sometimes Down)

Want to sound like a legal eagle? Then you can say that a case is "brought up on appeal." Cases are thought of as going "up" through the court system. A trial court decision is brought up to the appeals court; an appeals court decision is brought up to the highest court. Once a case has been heard by the highest court, there is nowhere left to go.

Appellate courts review lower courts' decisions to see if a mistake was made. When an appellate court makes a decision, all lower courts must follow that decision in the future when the same issue comes up again.

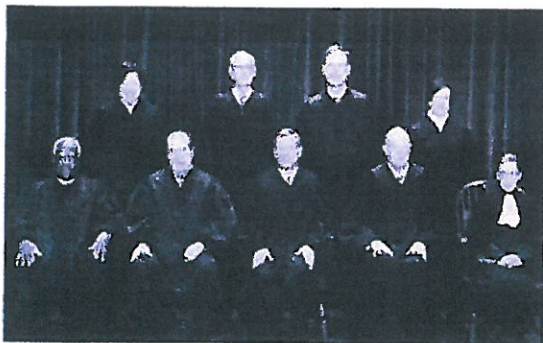
Judges and More Judges

While a trial court only has one judge, most Court of Appeals cases are heard by three judges! When more than one judge listens to a case, the group of judges is called a **panel**. Usually, the judges decide the case by majority vote. At the appellate level, there is never a jury. That's because a jury's only job is to look at evidence and decide what happened. In an appellate court, the judges are deciding whether legal errors have been made. For the losing side in the Court of Appeals, there is one more chance: the Supreme Court, which is the highest court.



And That's Final!

At the U.S. Supreme Court, a panel of nine justices hears the cases. (State supreme courts often have fewer justices.) The Supreme Court gets to choose which cases to take — and it doesn't take very many! Often, cases that make it to the Supreme Court are disputes about whether a law goes against the Constitution. Once the Supreme Court has said something is unconstitutional, that's it! Only the Court itself can reverse that decision. This power of deciding what is constitutional is called **judicial review**. The U.S. Supreme Court has this power over federal laws. State supreme courts have this power over state laws.



The nine current U.S. Supreme Court Justices.

Judicial Branch in a Flash

Name: _____

A. Complete the Sentence. Use the terms and ideas that you learned in this lesson to finish each statement.

1. The only court the Constitution creates is _____

2. The two court systems in the United States are _____

3. Two kinds of legal cases are _____

4. The job of the Court of Appeals is _____

5. It's difficult to take a case to the Supreme Court because _____

6. If you lose a case in the trial court, you can _____

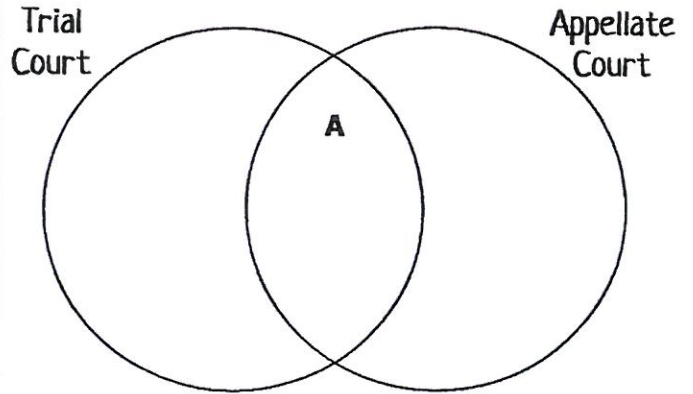
7. If an appellate court affirms a case, it means _____

8. If a law is unconstitutional, the Supreme Court can _____

9. Evidence is used for _____

10. A trial with no jury is called a _____

B. Making Comparisons. Decide whether each description fits trial courts only, appellate courts only, or both, and write the letter of the description in the correct part of the diagram. The first one is done for you.



- A. Hears civil cases
- B. Might have a jury trial
- C. Does not hear cases for the first time
- D. Hears criminal cases
- E. Reviews a verdict to look for mistakes
- F. Usually has three-judge panels
- G. Hears cases for the first time
- H. Works with laws

C. Order in the Court! Number each set of events to put the three events in the correct order.

- _____ The Court of Appeals remands the case
- _____ A new trial begins
- _____ The first verdict is appealed

- _____ Trial is held in the District Court
- _____ The Supreme Court agrees to hear the case
- _____ An appeal is made to the Court of Appeals

- _____ Evidence is presented to the jury
- _____ The members of the jury are chosen
- _____ The jury returns a verdict

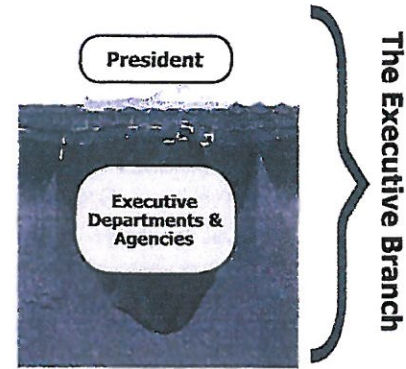
- _____ The Supreme Court strikes down the law
- _____ Supreme Court hears a case about the law
- _____ Congress passes a law

A Very Big Branch

Name: _____

We've Got a Job to Do

The job of the executive branch is to carry out the laws that the legislative branch passes. When you think of the executive branch, you probably think of the president. But the president is only the head of the executive branch. He is like the tip of the iceberg: underneath, there is a giant organization with lots of people doing many different jobs. In fact, the executive branch is the largest branch of our government!



Chief Justice John Roberts swearing in Attorney General William Barr as President Trump stands as witness.

Help from Many

Most of the executive branch is made up of departments and independent agencies. **Departments** are the main organizations in the executive branch. There are 15 departments. Each one focuses on a specific type of activity such as education, transportation, defense, or energy. Each department has smaller agencies that do specific jobs. For example, the Department of Justice (DOJ) operates our justice system and works to prevent crime. Two agencies inside the DOJ are the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The FBI investigates certain kinds of crimes, while the DEA deals with crime related to drugs and controlled substances.

The president appoints a **secretary** to lead each department. (But the head of the Department of Justice is called the Attorney General.) These secretaries do more than just lead a department. They are the president's **cabinet**—a group of people that give advice to help the president make important decisions. Officials who hold these cabinet-level positions such as the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary of Homeland Security are very important players in the executive branch.

Government Corporations

Some parts of the executive branch are businesses that the government owns, such as AMTRAK, which operates passenger trains, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which insures bank deposits in case a bank fails.

Independent agencies are government organizations that also focus on specific issues, but they are different from departments because they aren't directly controlled by the president or executive branch. These agencies are created by Congress in order to address concerns not easily solved through legislation. They are often controlled by a board or commission, and there are usually restrictions on how the president appoints and removes the members.

Carrying Out Laws: Enforcement

What does it mean to "carry out" a law? That depends on the kind of law that needs to be carried out. Some laws make things illegal and describe consequences for those who do those things. Executive agencies **enforce** the law when someone isn't following it. There are several things an agency can do to enforce a law:

- Educate the public about new laws
- Monitor the public to make sure laws are being followed
- Catch individuals or organizations not following the law
- Take the offenders to court
- Follow any other enforcement procedures the agency may have



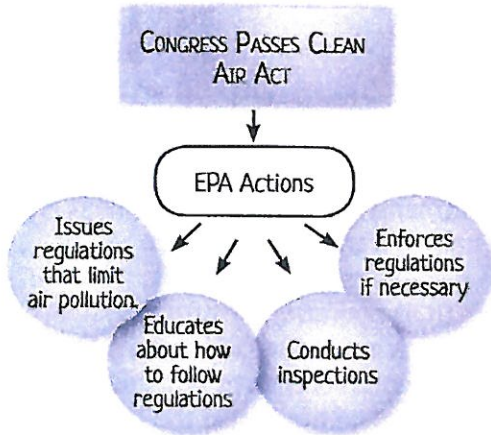
The U.S. Marshals Service is the oldest federal law enforcement agency. Marshals provide court security, hunt fugitives, and offer witness protection.

A Very Big Branch

Name: _____

Carrying Out Laws: Regulations

Other laws are just instructions about something that must be done, such as installing new security procedures at the nation's airports. A law like this will not include every last detail about how it should be carried out. Instead, the law will authorize the executive branch to decide these details. The rules the executive branch makes about how the law will be carried out are called **regulations**. Regulations have power similar to laws. Some regulations make activity illegal, and others give instructions for how something must be done.



Agencies Enforce and Regulate

Most departments and agencies both enforce laws and make regulations. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is an independent agency whose goal is to protect the environment and human health. It carries out laws passed by Congress, such as the Clean Air Act that is designed to limit air pollution. The Clean Air Act authorizes the EPA to set limits on how much pollution can be put into the air. To do this, the EPA issues regulations that say exactly how much pollution vehicles, factories, and other sources can put into the air. The EPA then works to enforce these regulations. Violating them can result in penalties.

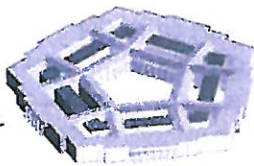
Maintaining Order and Safety

We depend on many parts of the executive branch to keep us safe and to keep order. For example, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for protecting the United States against all kinds of threats. It includes agencies that deal with terrorism, natural disasters, and border protection. It also includes the Secret Service, whose agents protect the president and vice president and their families. Inside the DHS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responds to natural disasters to help people get the help they need in an orderly way. The Coast Guard, also part of DHS, patrols our nation's coastlines to watch for threats and helps boats in distress.



A Secret Service agent stands guard outside the White House.

The DoD headquarters is at the Pentagon.



The Department of Defense (DoD) is the biggest department. It includes all the military departments such as the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as many other agencies. Together, all the parts of the Department of Defense work together to make sure our armed forces are prepared to protect our nation's security.

Busy, Busy

Remember that most of the day-to-day activity in the executive branch involves ordinary people doing the work that needs to be done: an FBI agent conducts an investigation, a soldier participates in training exercises, or a worker monitors a nuclear reactor at an energy plant. The executive branch needs people to answer phones, program computers, file papers, do scientific research, process mail, fly airplanes, and clean bathrooms. In fact, the federal government is the nation's largest employer, and most of those jobs are in the executive branch.



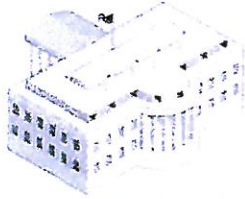
A U.S. Postal Service employee works hard to deliver your mail.

A Very Big Branch

Name: _____

A. Cabinet Departments. Use the word bank to fill in the missing words from the graphic organizer:

Attorney armed basic needs college highway countries farmers
 military homes money fuel public lands wages terrorists trade legal



The President's Cabinet Executive Branch Departments

<p>SECRETARY OF STATE Department of State Manages our relationships with foreign _____</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY Department of the Treasury Collects taxes, prints _____, deals with the nation's finances</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Department of Defense Manages the _____ forces and conducts wars overseas</p>
<p>_____ GENERAL Department of Justice Enforces laws and represents the United States in _____ matters</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Department of the Interior Manages and protects the nation's _____</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Department of Agriculture Works with _____ and regulates farm products</p>
<p>SECRETARY OF COMMERCE Department of Commerce Supervises _____ and promotes U.S. businesses</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF LABOR Department of Labor Helps workers get fair _____ and working conditions</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION Department of Transportation Oversees _____ safety and air, rail, and sea travel</p>
<p>SECRETARY OF ENERGY Department of Energy Researches sources of _____ and electricity for the nation</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF EDUCATION Department of Education Gives money for K-12 schools and student _____ loans</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Department of Veterans Affairs Provides services for people who served in the _____</p>
<p>SEC. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Dep't of Health & Human Services Gives services for Americans' health and _____</p>	<p>SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY Department of Homeland Security Protects against _____ and other threats</p>	<p>SEC. OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT Dep't of Housing & Urban Development Creates strong communities and affordable _____</p>


B. Who Said That? Identify which secretary might give the following advice or information:

1. Sec. of _____: "We need to invest in more solar electricity."
2. Sec. of _____: "We saw a decrease in highway deaths this year."
3. Sec. of _____: "Agents intercepted a terrorist threat this morning."
4. Sec. of _____: "It's time to take the penny out of circulation."
5. Sec. of _____: "We need to combat bark beetles in the national forest."

A Very Big Branch


Name: _____

C. Whose Job Is It, Anyway? Identify the executive agency that would most likely execute each act:

The Veterans Educational Assistance Act (2008) 


Increases educational benefits for military veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

Agency: _____

Protect America Act (2007) 


Provides the intelligence community tools to gather important information about terrorists.

Agency: _____

Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (1994) 

Increased the number of police officers, funding for prisons, and crime prevention programs.

Agency: _____

No Child Left Behind Act (2001) 


Ensures that students in every public school achieve important learning goals by well-prepared teachers.

Agency: _____

Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (2009) 


Prevents families from losing their homes to foreclosure.

Agency: _____

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009) 

Gives funds to projects like ones that support improving roads, bridges, and other public structures.

Agency: _____

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010) 


Makes it easier for Americans to be covered by health insurance and get medical attention.

Agency: _____

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (2002) 

Provides support to American farmers.

Agency: _____

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (1982) 

Created a national program for safe and permanent disposal of radioactive waste.

Agency: _____

D. Enforce and Regulate. The Department of Labor (DOL) works to protect public health and safety. Decide if each item on the list is a DOL regulation (R) or enforcement activity (E).

Enforcement	Regulation	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1. Monitor workplaces to see if they are following safety and health standards.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2. Employers must use a certain method for calculating overtime pay.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3. Employers must record and report work-related fatalities, injuries, and illnesses.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4. Evaluate possible cancer-causing substances found in the workplace.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5. Employees can file a charge if they feel they've been discriminated against
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6. Educate employers about how to follow the Fair Labor Standards Act.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	7. Make sure agricultural workers are receiving fair treatment required by law.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	8. Employers must post a notice explaining laws about the minimum wage.

Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch

Use the following 21 terms to complete the above chart. Place the item under the appropriate heading. Cross each one as you place it above.

- *President *Confirms judges and other appointments by President
- *House of Representatives *Vice-President *Congress
- *Senate *Controls Federal Finances *Proposes laws
- *Decides constitutionality of laws *Appoints judges or other officials
- *Makes laws *Can veto laws *Commander in Chief
- *Supreme Court *Can impeach President or Judges *Appointed for life
- *Declare war *Limited to terms of six or two years *Term of four years
- *Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices *Senators

Branches of Government Worksheet

Name: _____

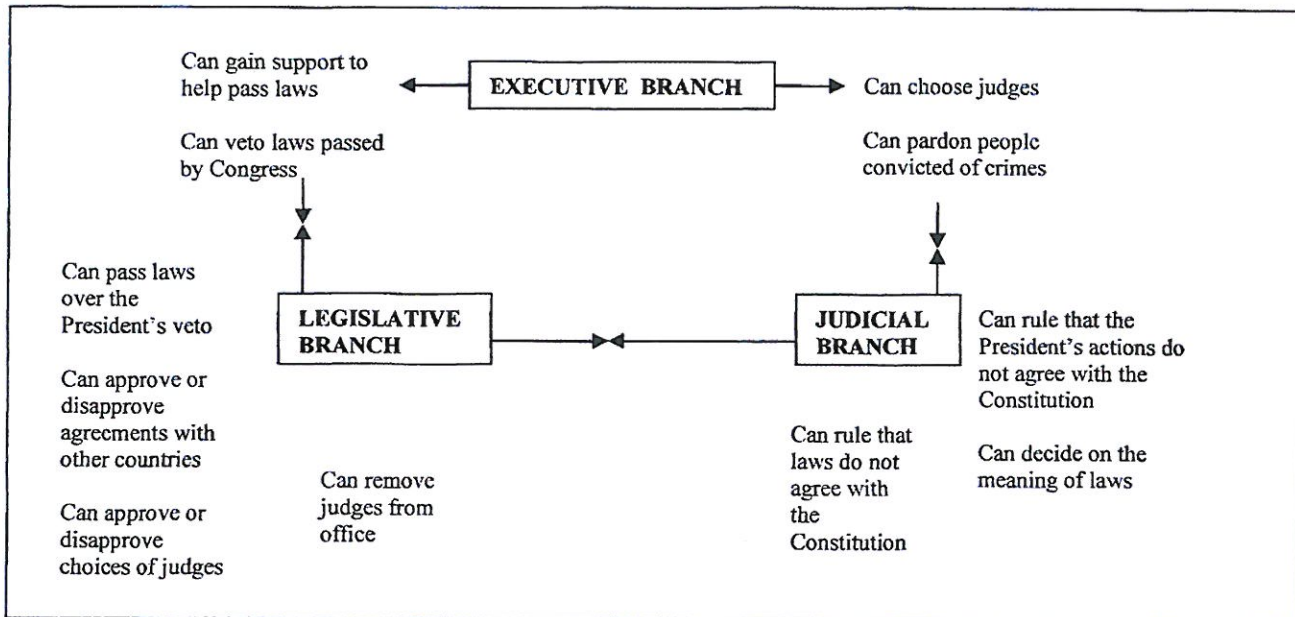
Read each of the following phrases and decide which branch of the national government is described. Write L for legislative, E for executive, or J for judicial in the blank at right.

- 1. includes the Supreme Court and other national courts _____
- 2. sees that laws are carried out _____
- 3. has members elected by voters within each state _____
- 4. is headed by the President _____
- 5. settles disagreements about the meaning and use of national laws _____
- 6. makes laws for the nation _____
- 7. is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives _____
- 8. has judges chosen by the President _____

The diagram below shows the system of checks and balances in our national government. Use the diagram to complete the questions below.

- 9. According to the diagram, does each branch of government check the power of the other two branches?

- 10. Which branch of government has its power checked by the President's power to veto laws? _____
- 11. Which branch of government has its power checked by the power of Congress to approve or disapprove agreements with other countries? _____
- 12. Which branch of government has its power checked by the power of Congress to approve or disapprove its membership? _____






Name _____
United States History & Government

Date _____

Checks & Balances

Introduction: Under the Articles of Confederation a weak national government was created largely due to the fear of a strong national government. Following Shay's Rebellion, our new nation decided that the federal government and the Articles of Confederation needed to be revised. At the Constitutional Convention, the delegates decided to create a stronger national government by creating a new Constitution. However, there was still a fear of an over powerful national government. To quell this fear, the framers of our *new* Constitution split the federal government into 3 separate branches, and built in a system of *Checks & Balances* to prevent any one branch from gaining too much power over another branch of government.

Task: Fill out the following flow chart. Start off by filling out the **1st column of boxes** which represent each branch of government, making sure to include the specific duty of that branch (ex. *Make Laws, Enforce Laws, Interpret Laws*). In the next set of columns, you need to fill out the specific checks each branch uses on the other.

	<i>Who is in the Branch?</i>	<i>Check on Legislative Branch?</i>	<i>Check on Executive Branch?</i>	<i>Check on Judicial Branch?</i>
 <i>Executive Branch</i>			X	
 <i>Legislative Branch</i>		X		
 <i>Judicial Branch</i>				X

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Branches of Government Test

1. Which of the following is not a branch of government?
 - a. Legislative
 - b. National
 - c. Judicial
 - d. Executive
2. Which branch of government does the Congress belong to?
 - a. Executive branch
 - b. Legislative branch
 - c. Judicial branch
 - d. National
3. The Senate is made of how many members?
 - a. 435
 - b. 100
 - c. 150
 - d. 50
4. The House of Representatives is made of how many members?
 - a. 435
 - b. 100
 - c. 150
 - d. 50
5. What is the job of the legislative branch?
 - a. Enforce the laws
 - b. Vetoes bills
 - c. Making the laws
 - d. Votes for judges
6. Both Senators and Representatives must be citizens and
 - a. Be 35 years old to serve
 - b. Live in the state they represent
 - c. Serve until they retire
 - d. Be re-elected every 4 years
7. The Legislative Branch works in which building?
 - a. White House
 - b. Supreme Court House
 - c. The U.S. Capital
 - d. The Pentagon
8. Who is the leader of the executive branch of government?
 - a. Speaker of the House
 - b. Attorney General
 - c. Secretary of State
 - d. President
9. Who is the President of the United States?
 - a. Donald J. Trump
 - b. Barak Obama
 - c. John Kennedy
 - d. Martin Luther King Jr.
10. Who is second in command under the President?
 - a. Secretary of State
 - b. Attorney General
 - c. Governor
 - d. Vice-President
11. What is the job of the executive branch of government?
 - a. Signing bills into law or vetoing bills
 - b. Meeting with world leaders
 - c. Ordering military
 - d. All of the above
12. Which branch of government does the Cabinet belong to?
 - a. Executive branch
 - b. Legislative branch
 - c. Judicial branch
 - d. National
13. A U.S. President is elected every ___ years and can serve at most ___ terms.
 - a. 6 years, 2 terms
 - b. 2 years, unlimited terms
 - c. 4 years, 2 terms
 - d. 8 years, 8 terms
14. The President is also known as the
 - a. Cabinet
 - b. Commander-in-Chief
 - c. Justice
 - d. Congress

15. Which branch of government does the Supreme Court belong?
- e. Executive branch
 - f. Legislative branch
 - g. Judicial branch
 - h. National

16. The members of the Supreme Court are
- a. Advisors
 - b. Justices
 - c. Citizens
 - d. Charges

17. How many judges are on the Supreme Court?
- a. Nine
 - b. Five
 - c. Thirty-nine
 - d. As many as needed

18. What is the job of the legislative branch?
- e. Make sure laws are fair
 - f. Vetoes bills
 - g. Making the laws
 - h. Votes for judges

19. The Supreme Court Justices are appointed By the ____.
- a. Senate
 - b. House of Representatives
 - c. Judges
 - d. President

20. How long does a Supreme Court Justice serve?
- a. Rest of their life or retirement
 - b. 4 year term
 - c. 6 year term
 - d. 2 year term

Label the following buildings:

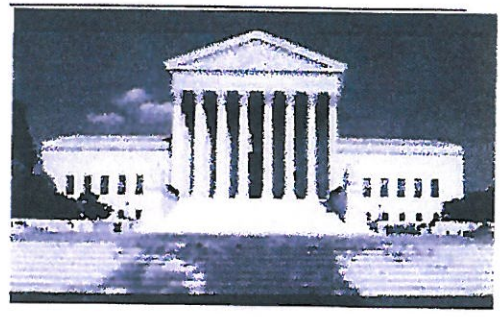
1.



2.



3.



4.

