


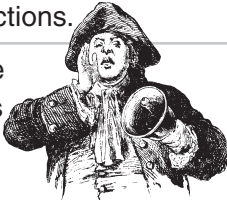
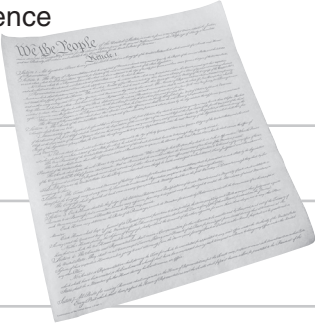
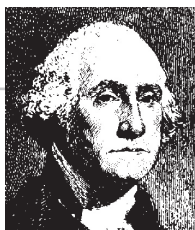
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Listed below are a sampling of the important events that led up to America's independence and the adoption of a new Constitution. You will find the year and the significant event that happened during that time.

1763-1765	England decides on a program of taxation and control of the colonies. The American colonists begin organized protests against British rule. Patriotic groups, such as the Sons of Liberty, are formed. Laws such as the <i>Quartering Act</i> , <i>Stamp Act</i> , and <i>Sugar Act</i> anger the colonists, who are forced to pay unjust taxes and provide supplies to British troops.	
1770	Colonists reduce their boycott of British goods when they withdraw all of the <i>Townshend Act</i> , except the tax on tea. Boston Massacre occurs when an angry crowd of citizens surround a group of soldiers causing them to open fire.	
1773	With the American colonists and merchants still angry over British tax policies, an uprising called the <i>Boston Tea Party</i> occurs.	
1774	In response to the Boston Tea Party, the Parliament passes several acts to punish Massachusetts. The colonies name delegates to a congress, The First Continental Congress. On September 5th, 12 of the 13 colonies send a total of 56 delegates to meet in Philadelphia, mainly to deal with Britain's actions.	
1775	When the Americans learn the British plan to seize their guns and ammunition, Paul Revere is sent to alert the countryside and gather the Minute Men. An unidentified shot triggers this Battle at Lexington. This starts the American Revolution and also leads to another famous battle, Bunker Hill.	
1776	On July 4th, The Second Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence (written by Thomas Jefferson and a committee). A few days later, the Liberty Bell is rung in Philadelphia to call the people to the first public reading of the Declaration.	
1781	The Articles of Confederation are adopted by the states.	
1787	On May 14th, The Constitutional Convention meets in Philadelphia, it lasts until September 17th. Here the delegates reviewed and approved the Constitution.	
1788	Eleven states ratify the Constitution, and it is put into effect. America prepares to operate under this new document.	
1789	On March 4th, the new federal government is inaugurated in New York. In April, the first House of Representatives is organized. George Washington is elected the first president on April 6th. He is inaugurated on April 30th. On September 25th, the first 10 amendments (Bill of Rights) are adopted by Congress.	

Questions

TRUE OR FALSE?

- ___ 1. The Minute Men helped the British at the Battle of Lexington.
- ___ 2. The Boston Tea Party occurred in 1773.
- ___ 3. The colonists especially liked the British Quartering Act and the Sugar Act.
- ___ 4. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.
- ___ 5. The Bill of Rights was adopted by Congress in 1789.

PUT THE 3 EVENTS IN EACH OF THE 4 QUESTIONS BELOW IN CORRECT CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, FROM FIRST TO LAST, BY USING THE LETTER OF THE EVENT.

- 1. a. Boston Massacre, b. Declaration of Independence, c. Washington becomes president. ___
- 2. a. Articles of Confederation, b. Boston Tea Party, c. The Constitution ratified by 11 states. ___
- 3. a. England decides on a program of taxation and control of the colonies, b. Constitutional Convention, c. Battle of Bunker Hill. ___
- 4. a. Paul Revere alerts colonists, b. Stamp Act, c. First House of Representatives organized. ___

“Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes law be presented to the President of the United States....” — United States Constitution

Powers to make laws are given to Congress, consisting of the Senate and House of Representatives. A description of these powers can be found in Article 1 of the Constitution.

In both houses of Congress, no business may be transacted without a quorum. A *quorum* in each house is a majority of its members. A majority is one-half plus one.

Bills, a term for proposed laws, may be started in either house of Congress. However, bills for revenue must begin in the House of Representatives (see Article 1, Section 7). After a bill is introduced, it is given a number and usually referred to a special committee. There are 16 Senate committees and 24 House committees, plus four special or select Senate committees.

In a committee, detailed studies are made of the bill and hearings may be held. A committee may amend, rewrite, recommend passage, or ignore a bill. It is possible to pass some bills without committee approval, but this seldom happens. Some people feel these committees are too powerful and they may keep members of Congress from considering certain laws. Committees are necessary, however, and rules controlling their behavior and power are determined by Congress.

Thousands of bills are introduced during a session of Congress. Four out of five of these bills have little or no chance of being passed into law. Bills that seem unimportant to the committees are ignored. About one out of five bills is taken seriously, and public hearings on the bill may be held. After the committee finishes with a bill, it is reported to the Senate or House favorably

or unfavorably. The entire Senate or House then votes on the bill.

The bills that come from committees are put on a calendar and voted on according to a schedule. Changes to the bill may be made, and then the final vote is taken. The bill is sent to the other house of Congress if the vote is favorable.

In the other house of Congress, the same type of procedure is followed. If the other house passes the bill, but with changes, a joint committee from both houses is set up to work out a compromise bill.

After the bill has passed both houses, it is sent to the president, who may either sign or veto it. This particular duty is found in Article 1, Section 7, of the Constitution. If the president signs the bill, it becomes another law of our land. If the president does not sign the bill, but vetoes it, the two houses of Congress may try to override the president’s veto by a two-thirds vote in each house. Very few bills are passed this way.

If the president does not act at all, the bill becomes a law automatically in 10 days, providing Congress is still in session. If Congress adjourns before the 10-day period is up and the president has not acted on the bill, it is automatically vetoed. This is called a *pocket veto*.

After Congress (legislative branch) has passed a bill and the president (executive branch) has signed it into law, it is the president’s duty to enforce the law. The courts (judicial branch) then interpret it and administer justice under it. The Supreme Court may rule whether or not the law is constitutional.

Lawmaking and the Three Branches

A bill is introduced, sent to committee, then voted on. If passed in committee and then on floor of house, it is sent to other house.



Legislative Branch
Two Houses of Congress

The president may sign the bill, and it will be a law, or veto it. If there is a veto, Congress may try to pass it over the veto by a two-thirds vote.



Executive Branch
The President

The courts see that justice is administered under the law. The Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional.



Judicial Branch
The Supreme Court and Other Courts

"Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound their true meaning and operation." – Alexander Hamilton

Judicial review is the name given to the process by which the courts interpret the meaning of the Constitution and the laws passed under it. It is clear that the Constitution is the supreme law of our land and takes precedence over any law passed or any action taken by any state or federal official.

But the Constitution is not a detailed legal code, and it is not always easy to see how the Constitution can be applied to particular cases. As conditions change, new interpretations may be placed on the Constitution; actions may be taken in areas that are not directly covered by the Constitution.

Someone, then, must have the authority to say exactly what the Constitution means and to decide if the government is acting within constitutional limits. Most historians agree that the members at the Constitutional Convention meant the courts to have the power of judicial review, even though they did not write it out in detail. Apparently, they thought that the idea had been conveyed adequately through the wording of Article 3, the judicial article, and Article 6, the "supreme law of the land" clause.

There had been some discussion of this question after the Constitutional Convention, but nothing had been settled until 1803, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*. The court ruled that one section of a 1789 law was

contrary to the Constitution and, therefore, was not a valid law. This case established the precedent for judicial review. Judicial review in the United States has been a model for other countries.

The Supreme Court's right to interpret the Constitution has been challenged at times, but has always been upheld. In a sense, all of our courts contribute to the interpretation of the Constitution through the rulings they hand down on various cases involving the Constitution. The Supreme Court has used its power of judicial review to overturn more than a hundred acts of Congress and more than a thousand state laws. In addition the Supreme Court can, and often does, overturn the rulings of lower courts. It is the final authority on the meaning of the Constitution.


QUESTIONS

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. This name is given to the process by which courts interpret the meaning of the Constitution and the laws passed under it. _____
2. What article in the Constitution discusses the judicial branch? _____
3. What important case came before the Supreme Court in 1803? _____
4. What court is the final authority on the meaning of the Constitution? _____

LEARNING AID

JUDICIAL BRANCH FACT SHEET

Main Courts	The <i>Supreme Court</i> , <i>Court of Appeals</i> , and <i>District Courts</i> .	
Number of Courts	<i>Supreme Court</i> : 1 <i>Court of Appeals</i> : 13 <i>District Courts</i> : 94	
Number of Judges	<i>Supreme Court</i> : 9 <i>Court of Appeals</i> : 3 to 9 <i>District Courts</i> : 1 to 24	
Supreme Court Salaries	\$217,400 for Supreme Court chief justice \$208,100 for Supreme Court associate justices	
Terms	For life; may be removed only by impeachment.	
Duties	Main duty for the judicial branch is to interpret laws and administer justice. <i>Supreme Court</i> : Decide if laws are constitutional <i>Court of Appeals</i> : Hear appeals from lower courts <i>District Courts</i> : Ordinary trial courts, federal cases begin here Other courts handle special cases, examples include U.S. Claims Court and U.S. Tax Court.	
Meeting Place	<i>Supreme Court</i> : Washington D.C. <i>Court of Appeals</i> : various circuits <i>District Courts</i> : various districts	
Article Number in Constitution	Article 3	

The authors of the Constitution wanted to be sure that no person or group would seize power and control the American government. To insure that this would not happen, our United States government, under the Constitution, was divided into three parts: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. Each of these three branches has a check on the powers of the others. These checks provide a system of balance in our government, and that is why we call the system *checks and balances*.

You may also hear this system referred to as a separation of powers. Although not directly mentioned in the Constitution, the first three articles mark the responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It gives some power to each branch of government instead of giving all the power to one branch.

These are the most important checks and balances:

1. **Executive branch** has the power to check the legislative branch by vetoing laws that Congress wants to pass.
2. **Legislative branch** may check the executive branch by passing laws over the veto by two-thirds vote in each house.

3. **Judicial branch** may check both the legislative and executive by declaring laws unconstitutional.

Obviously, this is not the whole system, but it is the main idea. Other checks and balances include:

Executive over the judicial branch: The president appoints all federal judges.

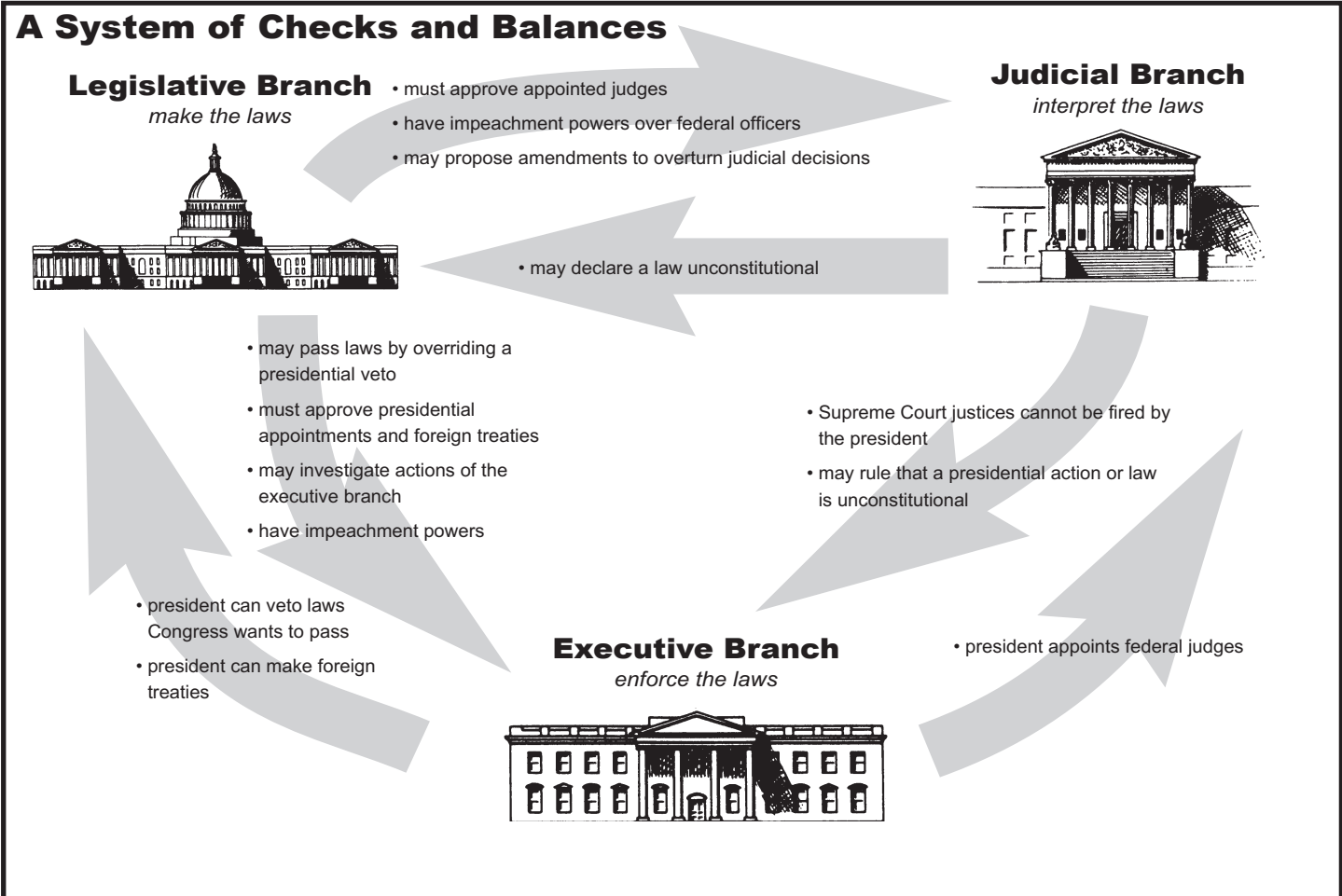
Legislative over the executive branch: The legislative branch must approve appointments that the president makes; the Senate must approve treaties that the president makes; and the legislative branch may investigate the executive branch.

Legislative over the judicial branch: The legislative branch must approve the president's choice of judges to the judicial branch; may propose constitutional amendments to overturn judicial decisions.

Legislative over the executive and judicial branch: The legislative branch has impeachment powers over all federal officers.

Judicial over the executive branch: Supreme Court justices cannot be fired by the president.

continued



The numbers in parentheses gives the page number where the answer or additional information may be found.

Development of the Constitution

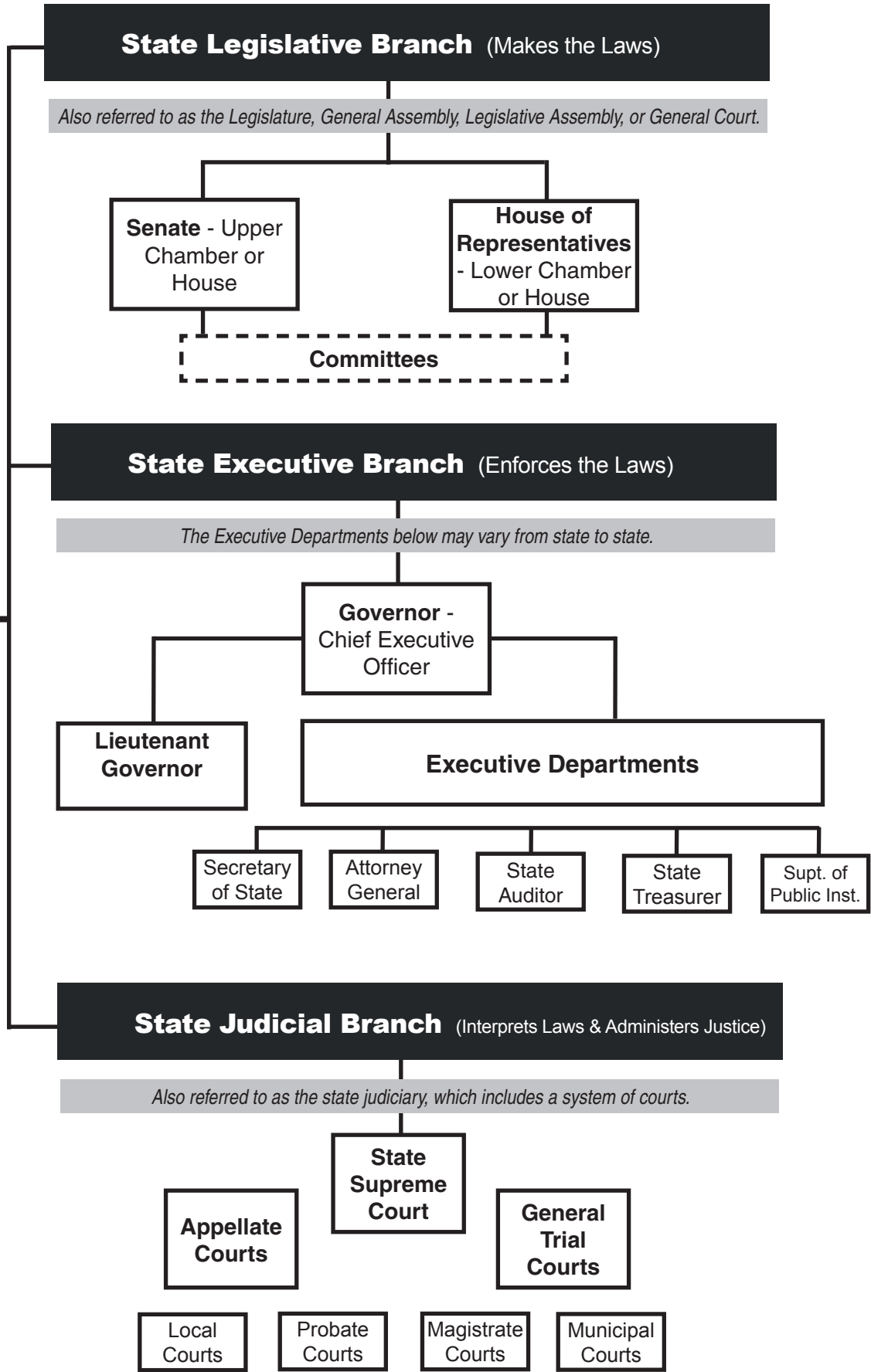
1. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? (4) _____
2. When and where was the Declaration signed? (4) _____
3. What were the Articles of Confederation? (5) _____
4. Briefly describe some of the problems our country experienced under the Articles. (5) _____
5. When and where did the Constitutional Convention meet? (6-7) _____
6. What major problem had to be solved during the Constitutional Convention between the large states and the small states, and what was the solution? (7) _____
7. How did Thomas Jefferson feel about the new Constitution? (9) _____
8. What was the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution? (12) _____
9. How many articles does the Constitution have? (13) _____
10. Which article gives information about the president? (13,15,29) _____
11. Which article tells you how to amend the Constitution? (42) _____
12. How many amendments have been made to the Constitution? (13-14) _____

Legislative Branch

13. Explain what is meant by "representative" government. (11,16,18) _____
14. Why are there staggered terms of office in the Senate? (17) _____
15. What happens if a senator cannot finish a term? (17) _____
16. Who is president of the Senate? (17) _____
How many senators are there? (17) _____
17. How many senators does each state have? (17) _____ How long is the term? (17) _____
18. How many times may a senator be re-elected? (17) _____
19. What are the qualifications:
For senator? (17) _____
For representative? (18) _____
20. Explain the lawmaking process. (20-21) _____
21. Explain how sessions of Congress are numbered. (18) _____
22. List the powers given to the Congress by the Constitution. (16,24) _____
23. List the powers denied to Congress. (24) _____
24. What is the "full faith and credit" clause? (27) _____

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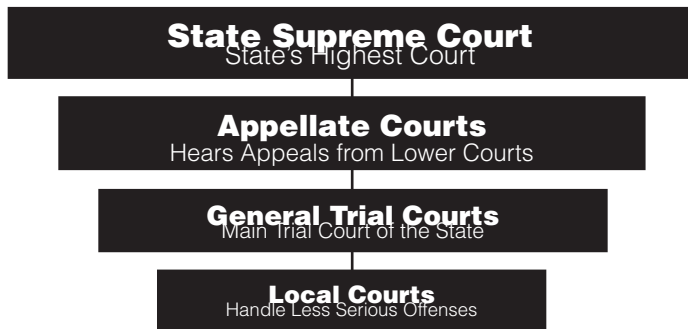


The judicial branch of state government administers justice and interprets the laws. It is composed of a system of courts. Each court has specific responsibilities and restrictions in legal matters. This authority of a court to exercise judicial power is referred to as *jurisdiction*.

Under our federal system, there are two separate court systems, the state and the federal. The federal system has jurisdiction over certain classes of cases, all other cases are state cases. The greatest number of cases heard by far are state cases. The court system has several main functions:

- settles disputes between private citizens and between citizens and government;
- protects the rights of persons under the federal and state constitutions;
- determines the guilt or innocence of persons accused of a crime;
- acts as a check on the executive and legislative branches of government.

In some states, the court system has the power of appointment to other branches. In Tennessee for example, the state supreme court appoints the attorney general. The organization of courts in most states is represented by the chart below. More state specific information may be found on Page 71.



When studying law, you will hear the terms *civil law* and *criminal law*. Civil law concerns the rights of individuals and disputes among them. Criminal law has to do with persons who are charged with illegal acts.

Local Courts

This group of courts has limited jurisdiction, handling *misdemeanors* (or less serious offenses). There are many types of courts in this category, with two examples listed below:

- **Probate Courts:** Each county usually has its own probate court with jurisdiction over wills, estates, juveniles, and incompetent persons.
- **Magistrate Courts:** The magistrate courts in the state are responsible for hearing minor criminal or civil cases. Their jurisdiction is rather limited in these cases.

There are many other local courts. Other examples of limited jurisdiction courts are family courts, small claims courts, traffic courts, municipal courts, and tax courts.

General Trial Courts

This court is the main trial court in the state, having broad jurisdiction over major civil and criminal matters. These courts handle more serious matters and serve

as the main focus of the judicial system in the state. In various states this level of court is called circuit, district, county, common pleas, or superior court. While a less serious crime is called a misdemeanor, a more serious one is called a *felony*.

Appellate Courts

Approximately three-fourths of the states have courts of appeals to help ease the burden on the state supreme court. Individuals who are not satisfied with the rulings of lower courts may appeal to this court for a ruling. These courts are generally concerned with questions of law rather than questions of fact.

State Supreme Court

The final authority on the state constitution and the highest tribunal for any action begun in the state courts, except when a federal question is raised, is the Supreme Court. The court reviews cases according to a calendar set by the court. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in few cases; most cases come from the lower courts. It is the final interpreter of the state's constitution and laws.

There is a great variation in how judges are selected from state to state. Judges are selected in one three ways: (1) election, (2) appointment by the governor, or (3) appointment by the legislature. Most experts feel that appointment by the governor is probably the best form, but today election is the most popular.

Juries

The United States Constitution and your state constitution guarantee the right of trial by jury. Jurors are chosen from a list of registered voters and may be rejected after being questioned by the attorneys and the judge in the case.

Visiting a Court

While all the details of the state court system are complex, one can learn about their state court system by visiting a local court. A municipal or district court is located not far from your home and probably has visiting hours that would allow you to watch the proceedings of cases that come before it.

Questions

1. Name the highest court in your state. _____
2. A more serious crime is called a _____ .
3. A minor crime is called a _____ .
4. What court is the final authority on the state constitution? _____
5. If there is a conflict over a will, what court would hear the case? _____
6. A dispute between neighbors concerning property lines would be a civil or criminal case? _____
7. What is the purpose of the judicial branch? _____
8. Name one way of selecting a judge. _____

Population and Government

As you have learned from the federal section, each state gets at least one representative and exactly two senators. States are divided into districts called *congressional districts*. A district is determined by population rather than land area, and an elected government official will represent you in this district.

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a census to determine population changes. After these population changes are published, the districts are changed to correspond with the census results. Changing a district's shape and size is known as *reapportionment*.

To calculate a state's electoral votes, all you need to do is add the number of U.S. Representatives with the number of U.S. Senators. For example, Florida has 25 U.S. Representatives, plus the mandatory two Senators, get you a total of 27 electoral votes.

Great Seal of the United States Exercise

Below is a copy of the front and reverse sides of the Great Seal of the United States. Visit your school or local library to see if you can discover what the various symbols pictured in the seal represent. Do you see a pattern of 13 in the Great Seal? *Hint: there are five areas that represent the number 13.* Why 13?



Front Side of Seal



Reverse Side of Seal



Not shown: Alaska and Hawaii

United States Geography and Map Exercise

1. On the map, identify your state.
2. On the map, identify the two largest cities of the state.
3. Locate and name all your bordering states.
4. Identify the state with the largest population.
5. Identify the state with the most land area.
6. Locate one of the "Great Lakes."

State	State Constitution Facts				State Legislature Facts			
	# of Ratified Constitutions	Year of Latest	Approx. # of Words	# of Amend-ments	Name of Legis-lative Body	Name of Lower House	Upper House Members / Term / Limits	Lower House Members / Term / Limits
Alabama	6	1901	357,000	799	Legislature	House of Rep.	35 / 4 yrs / no	105 / 4 yrs / no
Alaska	1	1959	12,880	28	Legislature	House of Rep.	20 / 4 yrs / no	40 / 2 yrs / no
Arizona	1	1912	28,779	125	Legislature	House of Rep.	30 / 2 yrs / 4 terms	60 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Arkansas	5	1874	38,654	84	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	35 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	100 / 2 yrs / 3 terms
California	2	1879	34,000	485	Legislature	Assembly	40 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	80 / 2 yrs / 3 terms
Colorado	1	1876	45,600	152	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	35 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	65 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Connecticut	3	1965	7,900	31	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	36 / 2 yrs / no	151 / 2 yrs / no
Delaware	5	1897	18,700	101	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	21 / 4 yrs / no	41 / 2 yrs / no
Florida	6	1969	25,000	21	Legislature	House of Rep.	40 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	120 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Georgia	10	1983	600,000	81	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	56 / 2 yrs / no	180 / 2 yrs / no
Hawaii	1	1959	17,255	49	Legislature	House of Rep.	25 / 4 yrs / no	51 / 2 yrs / no
Idaho	1	1890	21,323	109	Legislature	House of Rep.	35 / 2 yrs / no	70 / 2 yrs / no
Illinois	4	1971	13,200	14	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	59 / 4 yrs / no	118 / 2 yrs / no
Indiana	2	1851	10,225	34	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	50 / 4 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
Iowa	2	1857	12,500	46	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	50 / 4 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
Kansas	1	1861	11,865	77	Legislature	House of Rep.	40 / 4 yrs / no	125 / 2 yrs / no
Kentucky	4	1891	23,500	24	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	38 / 4 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
Louisiana	11	1975	35,387	221	Legislature	House of Rep.	39 / 4 yrs / 3 terms	105 / 4 yrs / 3 terms
Maine	1	1820	13,500	171	Legislature	House of Rep.	35 / 2 yrs / 4 terms	151 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Maryland	4	1867	47,000	185	Gen. Assembly	House of Dele.	47 / 4 yrs / no	141 / 4 yrs / no
Massachusetts	1	1780	34,000	120	General Court	House of Rep.	40 / 2 yrs / no	160 / 2 yrs / no
Michigan	4	1964	20,000	28	Legislature	House of Rep.	38 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	110 / 2 yrs / 3 terms
Minnesota	1	1858	9,491	120	Legislature	House of Rep.	67 / 4 yrs / no	134 / 2 yrs / no
Mississippi	4	1890	23,500	121	Legislature	House of Rep.	52 / 4 yrs / no	122 / 4 yrs / no
Missouri	4	1945	40,134	49	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	34 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	163 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Montana	2	1973	11,363	27	Legislature	House of Rep.	50 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	100 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Nebraska	2	1875	18,802	219	Legislature	Unicameral*	49* / 4 yrs / 2 terms	--
Nevada	1	1864	19,735	131	Legislature	Assembly	21 / 4 yrs / 3 terms	42 / 2 yrs / 6 terms
New Hampshire	2	1784	9,450	71	General Court	House of Rep.	24 / 2 yrs / no	400 / 2 yrs / no
New Jersey	3	1948	16,980	23	Legislature	Gen. Assembly	40 / 4 yrs / no	80 / 2 yrs / no
New Mexico	1	1912	27,066	101	Legislature	House of Rep.	42 / 4 yrs / no	70 / 2 yrs / no
New York	4	1894	56,326	195	Legislature	Assembly	61 / 2 yrs / no	150 / 2 yrs / no
North Carolina	3	1971	13,250	18	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	50 / 2 yrs / no	120 / 2 yrs / no
North Dakota	1	1889	30,000	106	Leg. Assembly	House of Rep.	47 / 4 yrs / no	94 / 4 yrs / no
Ohio	2	1851	36,300	129	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	33 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	99 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Oklahoma	1	1907	68,500	165	Legislature	House of Rep.	48 / 4 yrs / 3 terms	101 / 2 yrs / 6 terms
Oregon	1	1859	24,700	234	Leg. Assembly	House of Rep.	30 / 4 yrs / no	60 / 2 yrs / no
Pennsylvania	5	1968	21,675	12	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	50 / 4 yrs / no	203 / 2 yrs / no
Rhode Island	2	1843	19,026	59	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	50 / 2 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
South Carolina	7	1896	22,500	484	Leg. Assembly	House of Rep.	46 / 4 yrs / no	124 / 2 yrs / no
South Dakota	3	1889	15,300	112	Legislature	House of Rep.	35 / 4 yrs / 2 terms	70 / 2 yrs / 4 terms
Tennessee	3	1870	15,300	36	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	33 / 4 yrs / no	99 / 2 yrs / no
Texas	5	1876	61,000	456	Legislature	House of Rep.	31 / 4 yrs / no	150 / 2 yrs / no
Utah	1	1896	17,300	103	Legislature	House of Rep.	29 / 4 yrs / no	75 / 2 yrs / no
Vermont	3	1793	6,600	53	Gen. Assembly	House of Rep.	30 / 2 yrs / no	150 / 2 yrs / no
Virginia	6	1971	18,500	38	Gen. Assembly	House of Dele.	40 / 4 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
Washington	1	1889	29,350	70	Legislature	House of Rep.	49 / 4 yrs / no	98 / 2 yrs / no
West Virginia	2	1872	25,550	70	Legislature	House of Dele.	34 / 4 yrs / no	100 / 2 yrs / no
Wyoming	1	1890	27,600	91	Legislature	House of Rep.	30 / 4 yrs / no	60 / 2 yrs / no

The following test will help check your understanding of the state constitution. It has questions similar to ones that may be on a final unit test. It is suggested you write your answers on a piece of paper so you can take the test a number of times. You will find the correct answers at the bottom of the page.

Hard work on this page will assure you of a better grade on your final exam. Be sure to look up any answers you don't understand or see your teacher for an explanation.

MATCHING. Match the person or body in **Column A** with the correct branch of state government in **Column B**. Put the letter of the correct answer in the blank at the left.

Column A

- _____ 1. The governor
- _____ 2. The state House of Representatives
- _____ 3. The state Supreme Court
- _____ 4. Secretary of state
- _____ 5. The state Senate

Column B

- A. The Legislative Branch
- B. The Judicial Branch
- C. The Executive Branch

FILL IN THE BLANKS. Write the correct answer in the blank to the left of the question.

- _____ 6. Who can veto a bill passed by the legislature?
- _____ 7. If the governor resigns, who becomes governor?
- _____ 8. The chief legal officer in the state.
- _____ 9. Type of ballot used if you are absent on Election Day.
- _____ 10. The election held before a general election.
- _____ 11. The governor of your state.
- _____ 12. Section of constitution that tells the purpose of government.
- _____ 13. When is the next presidential election?
- _____ 14. What is the minimum age to vote?
- _____ 15. Hears appeals from trial courts.

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space at the left of the question.

- _____ 16. Both the state Constitution and the United States Constitution have a Bill of Rights.
- _____ 17. The governor is the commander-in-chief of the state militia.
- _____ 18. Bills can start in either house of the state legislature.
- _____ 19. Foreign affairs is one of the duties of state government.
- _____ 20. The governor must be 50 years old or older.
- _____ 21. You can vote in multiple states in a particular election.
- _____ 22. There are more cities than counties in your state.
- _____ 23. The legislature can override a governor's veto.
- _____ 24. There are usually more members of the House (or Assembly) than the Senate.
- _____ 25. Most of the minor infractions are handled by the local courts.
- _____ 26. Your current state constitution was adopted in 1976.
- _____ 27. The capital of your state is always located in the city with the highest population.
- _____ 28. The lieutenant governor is appointed by the governor.
- _____ 29. The governor is responsible for submitting the state budget.
- _____ 30. A member of the House of Representatives usually serves a term of two years.

Answers: 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. A 6. governor 7. lieutenant governor 8. attorney general 9. absentee 10. primary election 11. local answer 12. preamble 13. 2012 14. 18 years of age 15. appellate courts 16. T 17. T 18. T 19. F 20. F 21. F 22. T 23. T 24. T 25. T 26. T 27. F 28. F 29. T 30. T