

## Information Sheet for Article I-The Legislative Branch

<b>Who?</b>	The Congress made up of the House of Representatives (435 members) and the Senate (100 members).	
<b>Requirements</b>	<u><b>House of Representatives</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 25 years old</li> <li>• A U.S. citizen for the past 7 years</li> <li>• Must live in the state they represent</li> </ul>	<u><b>Senate</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 30 years old</li> <li>• A U.S. citizen for the past 9 years</li> <li>• Must live in the state they represent</li> </ul>
<b>Term</b>	<u><b>House of Representatives</b></u> 2 years	<u><b>Senate</b></u> 6 years
<b>Special Powers</b>	<u><b>House of Representatives</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must introduce laws that make people pay taxes</li> <li>• Can decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate</li> </ul>	<u><b>Senate</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must approve any treaties of the President</li> <li>• Must approve any people the President recommends for jobs including ambassadors and Supreme Court Justices</li> <li>• Can hold a trial for a government official who does something very wrong</li> </ul>
<b>Powers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To make la ws</li> <li>2. To tax t he people</li> <li>3. To raise an ar my and navy to defend the country</li> <li>4. To declare war</li> <li>5. To create a c ourt system</li> <li>6. To coin mone y</li> <li>7. To regulate tr ade between states</li> <li>8. To regulate tr ade between the U.S. and other countries</li> </ol>	
<b>Limits on Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot make unfair laws such as those that would limit a person's right to freedom of speech or religion</li> <li>• The Supreme Court can declare a law unconstitutional</li> <li>• The President can veto a law</li> </ul>	

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

### Writing a Bill

Someone has an idea.

A member of Congress agrees with the idea and writes a proposal for the law which is called a "bill."



### Going to Committee

The bill is sent to a committee that analyzes and discusses the bill.

The committee may re-write the bill, accept it as it is, or do nothing (table the bill).



### Getting a Majority of Votes

When the committee sends the bill back, Congress votes on it.

If the bill started in the House, the House votes first. If it passes it moves on to the Senate.

If the bill started in the Senate, the Senate votes first. If the bill passes the Senate it goes to the House of Representatives.



### Getting the President's Signature

If the bill passes in both houses of Congress, it is sent to the President.






If the President signs the bill it becomes law.





If the President vetoes the bill, it can only become a law if Congress overrides the veto with a 2/3 vote.

## Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Constitution – Word Card #1 from Lesson 1

<p><b>7</b> <b>separation of powers</b></p>    <p>power is separated, or divided, among three branches of government</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Separation of power helps to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>branches of government</b></p> <p>the three different sections of government</p> <p><b>Example:</b> One branch of government makes laws, another branch enforces the laws, and the third branch decides what the laws mean.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>
<p><b>9</b> <b>legislative branch</b></p>  <p>the branch of government that makes laws</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The legislative branch made several laws relating to water pollution.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>executive branch</b></p>  <p>the branch of government that enforces laws</p> <p><b>Example:</b> It is up to the executive branch to enforce new laws.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>

<p><b>11</b> <b>judicial branch</b></p>  <p>the branch of government that decides what laws mean</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and other courts as created by Congress.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>articles</b></p> <p>parts of the Constitution</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The first three articles of the Constitution establish the three branches of government</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>checks and balances</b></p>  <p>the way in which the different branches of government keep each other from having too much power</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A veto is an example of checks and balances.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>veto</b></p>  <p>when the President turns down a bill or refuses to sign it into law</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The President vetoed the bill because he did not agree with it.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>
<p><b>15</b> <b>override</b></p>  <p>when the Congress votes to cancel a President's veto</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The U.S. Congress passed the law by overriding the President's veto of the bill.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>limited government</b></p> <p>the government can only do what the people have given it the power to do</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Limited government means the government can't just do whatever it wants.</p> <p>(SS050102)</p>

## Information Sheet for Article II-The Executive Branch

<b>Who?</b>	The President
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least 35 years old</li><li>• A natural-born citizen of the United States</li><li>• Must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years</li></ul>
<b>Term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A term of four years for President</li><li>• A President may serve two terms</li></ul>
<b>Other Members of the Executive Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Vice-President</li><li>• Members of the President's Cabinet such as the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Defense</li><li>• Officials of independent agencies that help carry out policy or provide special services such as the U.S. Postal Service, the National Science Foundation, and the Central Intelligence Agency</li></ul>
<b>Powers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To serve as Head of State in meeting with leaders of other countries</li><li>2. To act as Commander in Chief of the armed forces</li><li>3. To make treaties with other countries with the approval of the Senate</li><li>4. To appoint ambassadors and judges to the Supreme Court with the approval of the Senate</li><li>5. To conduct a war</li><li>6. To recommend legislation to Congress</li><li>7. To convene Congress in special circumstances</li><li>8. To serve as the "boss" of federal government workers</li><li>9. To sign or veto a bill from Congress</li></ol>
<b>Limits on Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The President can conduct a war, but only the Congress can declare war.</li><li>• The President controls the armed forces, but the Congress controls the money needed to support the armed forces.</li><li>• The Senate must approve of presidential appointments.</li><li>• The House of Representatives has the power to impeach the President for wrong-doing.</li><li>• The Senate has the power to try the President after he or she has been impeached.</li></ul>

## Information Sheet for Article III-The Judicial Branch

<b>Who?</b>	The Supreme Court is made up of 9 Justices.
<b>Requirements</b>	There are no requirements but to this date all Supreme Court Justices have been trained in the law. Many have served as members of Congress, governors, or members of a President's Cabinet.
<b>Term</b>	Supreme Court Justices serve for life unless they resign, retire or are impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted by the Senate.
<b>Other Members of the Judicial Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judges of lower federal courts.</li><li>• These federal judges are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.</li><li>• Like Supreme Court Justices, federal judges serve for life or until they resign, retire or are found guilty of serious crimes.</li></ul>
<b>Powers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To declare a law made by Congress unconstitutional</li><li>• To declare an action of the President unconstitutional</li><li>• To declare a state law unconstitutional if it conflicts with the laws made by Congress or with the Constitution</li></ul>
<b>Limits on Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congress has the power to impeach, try and remove Supreme Court Justices and federal judges from office.</li><li>• Courts do not have the power to enforce their decisions. The President is responsible for this.</li></ul>