

Name: _____ Unit: _____	EQ: <i>Does the US Congress accurately represent the American people?</i>
The Legislative Branch: Congress “All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.” -Article 1 Section 1 of the Constitution <i>Bicameral:</i> Two houses (House of Representatives and Senate) <i>New Hampshire Representation in the House of Representatives:</i> • _____ • _____ What are the best ways to contact your House Representatives?	<u>House of Representatives</u> Term length: _____ Qualifications: • • • Number of Representatives: _____ Head of the House of Representatives: Name: _____ Responsibilities • Decides the committees each member will serve on • Decides the order in which bills will be heard Special Powers of the House of Representatives: • All money (appropriations) bills start here • Select the President in an Electoral College tie • Write the article of impeachment against high ranking officials

Senate

Term length: _____

Qualifications:

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-
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Number of Senators: _____

Day to Day Head of the Senate (Majority Leader):

Name: _____

Responsibilities:

- Power: Decides committee members and order bills are debated.
- Note: Vice President is technically the head AND the President Pro Tempore covers the VP role if needed

Special Powers of the Senate:

- Approves all treaties
- Approves all appointments
- Chooses the Vice President in an Electoral College tie (not something we do)
- Acts as the jury in all trials of impeachment

*New Hampshire Senate
Representation*

- _____
- _____

**What are the best ways to contact your
Senate Representatives?**

Congressional Duties

Both houses:

1. Must keep a Journal:
 - a) *The Congressional Record*
2. Must hold sessions at the same time:
 - a) Sessions begin January 3rd each year
3. Must have a quorum to do business
 - a) 51% of members present on the floor
4. Both houses make their own rules for behavior and punishments
 - a) **Censure**: formally reprimand, written in the record
 - b) Fines and penalties may be set for some offenses
 - c) Expulsion: members with gross misconduct may be thrown out of office
5. Privileges and Compensation of Congress members:
 - a) Salary \$147,000 per year
 - b) Medical and dental benefits
 - c) Free office, parking, and trips to home state
 - d) Staff budget
 - e) Tax break on second home
 - f) Franking privilege- free postage on all mail to constituents
 - g) Immunity or legal protection:
 - h) Cannot be sued for anything they say or write while carrying out their duties
 - i) Cannot be arrested for minor offenses while Congress is in session
 - j) But, they may not hold in other political office at the same time

Powers of Congress

1. Raise and collect taxes
2. Borrow money
3. Regulate commerce
4. Set laws for Naturalization and Bankruptcy
5. Coin Money
6. Punish counterfeiting
7. Post office
8. Copyrights and patents
9. Set up courts
10. Declare war
11. Establish the military and National guard
12. Make rules and allot funds for the military and National guard
13. Punish pirates
14. Run Washington D.C. and all federal property
15. Elastic clause- implied power

ELASTIC CLAUSE (Just in case...)

The necessary and proper clause gives Congress the power to make laws “necessary and proper” to carry out the delegated duties (Also known as the ‘elastic clause’ it stretches the power given Congress)

But, powers are denied to Congress

1. Congress cannot make laws concerning slave trade until 1808
2. Cannot suspend the writ of Habeas Corpus- must show cause for holding a suspect except in wartime
3. No ex post facto law- cannot punish a person for an act committed before there was a law against it.
4. No direct tax- the 16th amendment allows income tax
5. No tax on exports
6. All states must be treated the same
7. Congress must approve all expenditures of the President through laws
8. No titles of nobility

Also are powers denied to the States

1. Cannot coin money
2. Cannot have a state militia, troops, or navy
3. Cannot make treaties
4. No ex post facto law
5. Cannot suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus
6. No import or export tax
7. No titles of nobility
8. Cannot pass any law that the Federal government is not allowed to pass

What are the most important jobs of each of the branches? Why do you think so?

How can Congress improve its reputation?

