

The US government

1.Read the text

The United States Constitution divides the government into its three branches: the Executive Branch (the President), the Legislative Branch (Congress), and the Judicial Branch (Courts). The people elect the President, and the President enforces the laws. The people elect the members of Congress of the United States of America which makes and passes laws.

It was created in 1789 by Article of The Constitution of the United States. The Congress is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of two Senators from each state. When a senator has been elected, they serve a six- year term. Until 1913 senators were elected by state law makers but since that year senators have been chosen by the people's vote. The House of Representatives consists of 135 members. Representatives are elected from congressional districts and serve two-year terms.

The two main parties in US politics are the Democrats and the Republicans. When a president is elected he or she serves in government for a period of four years. After four years, elections are held. If the president (and vice president) win, they stay in government for another four years. However, a president can only ever serve for two terms (eight years in total). There has never been a female president of the USA, but perhaps in the future a woman will be elected.

The members of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The Court decides what the law means when there are questions.

1. Answer the questions

- 1. What are the three branches of the United States government?**
- 2. How is the President elected and what is their role in the government?**
- 3. How are members of Congress elected and what is their role in the government?**
- 4. How long is a senator's term and how were they originally elected?**
- 5. How many members are there in the House of Representatives and how long is their term?**
- 6. What are the two main political parties in the US?**

- 7. How long can a president serve in office and how are they re-elected?**
- 8. Who appoints the members of the Supreme Court and who approves their appointment?**
- 9. What is the role of the Supreme Court in interpreting the law?**