

Essential Understanding:

The judicial branch is given the responsibility to interpret the laws and is made up of the courts in the United States, including the Supreme Court, the Federal District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals. With the exception of the Supreme Court that has both, each court has either appellate or original jurisdiction and/or concurrent jurisdiction.

Judicial review is the power of the courts to determine the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress. Cases decided by the Supreme Court set precedents for law makers and lower courts to follow. Justices are appointed for life and can interpret the Constitution using narrow, broad or originalist interpretations. When they make a decision, they issue an opinion giving the decision and their justification for their ruling.

Trials take place in civil and criminal trials. A trial starts with an arrest and after an arraignment and indictment, goes to a formal trial. The judge makes the ruling in civil cases, while a jury decides in criminal cases.

T I M P V I E W   H I G H   S C  
H O O L

The **Judicial Branch**  
UNIT 5

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Taught it! (parent or guardian signature)	Learning it! (I can do this with help)	Unfamiliar (I don't know how to do this)
I can explain the powers of the courts and where each court derives its powers.			
I can define the different types of jurisdiction and give an example of a court with each type of jurisdiction.			
I can explain the process for choosing justices.			

I can describe the process a case goes through to reach the Supreme Court and have a decision made.			
I can articulate the trial process and identify the differences between a civil and criminal case.			
I can interpret court cases using narrow, broad, and originalist interpretations.			
I can identify important Supreme Court Cases and how they have changed the rights granted to students.			

<b>Political language students should use:</b>	Jurisdiction, judicial branch, Supreme Court, District Court, adversary system, presumption of innocence, civil case, criminal case, indictment, arraignment, grand jury, petit/trial jury, amicus curiae, unanimous opinion, per curium opinion, majority opinion, concurring opinion, dissenting opinion, narrow interpretation, broad interpretation, originalism
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The material listed above is what will be covered on the unit test. Completing the learning objectives, recognizing and being able to use the political language, and having the essential understanding will help you be well prepared for the test. You demonstrate how well you understand each objective by teaching it to an adult.

Returning this page with signatures in each “Taught it!” box prior to the unit test earns 5% extra credit on that unit test!

**Projects: Mock Trial; students’ rights on trial**