

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The activities in this unit are designed to help your students understand the Legislative Branch of the federal government. Each activity can be used independently so you may choose those which fit your lesson plans and time schedule as well as your students' interests and abilities.

<u>Activities</u> <u>Page</u>	<u>Type of Skills Used in the Activities</u>					
	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Research</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	
Group 1: Structure, Powers, and Duties						
Congress	x	x			x	1
The Expressed Powers Of Congress	x	x			x	2
Implied Powers	x	x	x		x	3-4
Members of Congress.....	x	x			x	5
Congressman William’s Schedule	x	x			x	6
The Washington Times	x	x			x	7-8
How A bill Becomes Law	x	x			x	9
Group 2: The Illinois Senate Race						
William Glass (Senate Candidate).....	x	x	x		x	10
Linda Bower (Senate Candidate).....	x	x	x		x	11
Aaron Shelton (Senate Candidate).....	x	x	x		x	12
The Debate	x	x	x		x	13
The Primary	x	x	x		x	14
The Campaign	x	x	x		x	15
The Vote	x	x	x		x	16
Group 3: You’re The Candidate						
Announcing Your Candidacy	x		x		x	17
The Economic Issues.....	x	x	x		x	18-19
The Social Issues.....	x	x	x		x	20-21
Campaign Speech.....	x		x		x	22
Campaign Posters	x		x	x	x	23
Campaign Ad.....	x	x	x		x	24-28
Group 4: Trivia Challenge						
Gameboards and Instructions.....						29-30
Number Cards						31
Question Cards.....	x				x	32-41

Complete the following diagram of Congress by entering the proper information in each space.



The _____

This legislative body includes _____ members each serving a term of _____ years.

The presiding officer is the _____ who is selected from the _____ party.

The chief assistant to this presiding officer is the _____ who in turn is assisted by the _____.

The ultimate authority in each party is the party _____ or _____.

A growing rival to party authority are the _____ which are associations of members advocating a political ideology, or regional or economic interest.

The _____

This legislative body includes _____ members each serving a term of _____ years.

The presiding officer is the _____.

In his or her absence the presiding officer is the _____, an honorary position given to the _____ member of the _____ party.

Party structure in both houses is similar with the real day-to-day work being done by _____ which include _____ that are permanent bodies, _____ appointed for a limited purpose and time, and _____ made up of members of both houses.

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

Pictured on the right are Congresswoman Wright and Senator Paige. Below each of their pictures, enter the number of each statement that could refer to them.

1. Serves a two year term.
2. Must be at least 30 years old to serve.
3. Is a member of the Ways and Means Committee.
4. Can serve an unlimited number of terms.
5. Could become Speaker of the House.
6. Was recently involved in a filibuster.
7. Represents every citizen of the state.
8. Could become President Pro Temp.
9. Voted on the confirmation of several judges.
10. Represents the citizens of a district.
11. Serves a six year term.
12. Is a member of a caucus.
13. Must be a least 25 years old to serve.
14. Could become majority leader.
15. Is one of only two from each state.
16. Is a member of the Armed Services Committee
17. Could become minority leader.
18. Is a member of a subcommittee.
19. Recently voted against HR34.
20. Used personal funds for the election campaign
21. Was a member of a conference committee.
22. Recently voted against cloture.
23. Could be the majority whip.
24. Is the first of the two to vote on revenue bills.
25. Voted against a treaty with China
26. Voted against impeachment of the President.
27. Must be a citizen for seven years to serve.
28. Must be a resident of the state to serve.
29. Recently voted for S124.
30. Voted to propose an amendment to the Constitution.
31. Introduced a bill by dropping it in the hopper.
32. 1 of 100.
33. Introduced a bill by being recognized by the presiding officer.
34. 1 of 435.
35. Helped override a Presidential veto.
36. Concerned about not being re-elected because of gerrymandering.
37. Campaigned throughout the state for re-election to Congress.
38. Has been accused of introducing pork-barrel legislation.
39. Voted for confirmation of the President's choice for Secretary of State.
40. Will help select the next President if no candidate receives a majority of the elector vote.



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1. Place an X through each headline that would not be true of the House of Representatives

<p>House Overrides Veto</p> <p>The House has voted 292 to 143 to join the Senate in overriding the President's veto.</p>	<p>Republicans Gain Control of House</p> <p>Former Republican minority leader Frank Aguilar is expected to be elected Speaker of the House</p>	<p>27th Amendment Passes by Three Votes in the House and Becomes Law!</p>	
<p>The House of Representatives Votes 433 to 2 for War!</p>		<p>House To Consider Income Tax Reduction</p> <p>The Senate has passed new income tax legislation and sent the bill on to the House.</p>	<p>Congressman John Stuart will be running for his 20th term and is expected to be unopposed.</p>
<p>Filibuster in the House!</p> <p>The House Democrats are planning a filibuster to stop the administration's military appropriations bill.</p>	<p>House Rejects Nominee</p> <p>The House has rejected the nomination of Charles Swain to the Supreme Court.</p>	<p>The House Votes to Impeach the President</p>	<p>House Rejects Treaty With China</p>
<p>House Reapportionment Follows Census.</p> <p>The Midwest will lose seats in the House of Representatives as the U. S. population shifts to the South and Southwest.</p>		<p>Democrats Gain Control of the House of Representatives</p> <p>When the new Congress is seated in January, 2008, the Democrats will have a 25 seat majority.</p>	

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