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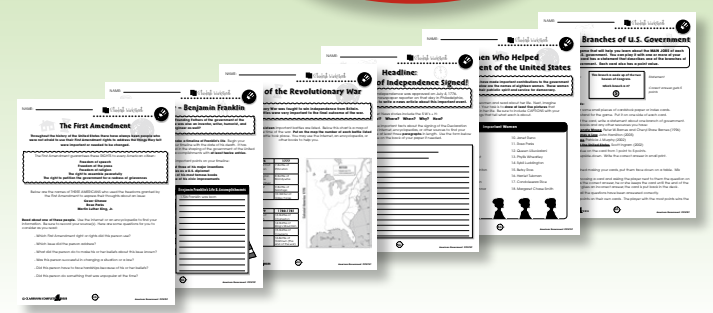
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## How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Write the correct word in each blank. Use the information in each sentence or a dictionary to help you. One word will be left over.

sponsor propose table bill clerk hopper calendar  
debate committee veto override approved

- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a suggestion for a law.
- The person who introduces the bill to Congress is called its \_\_\_\_\_.
- All suggestions for laws are handed to the \_\_\_\_\_ or put in the \_\_\_\_\_ on his desk.
- After they are introduced, all bills go to a \_\_\_\_\_, or smaller group of legislators to be studied and discussed.
- The committee then decides to release the bill or to \_\_\_\_\_ or lay it aside.
- If the bill is released, it is placed on a list of bills awaiting action on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The bill then goes to the entire House of Representatives or Senate for discussion and \_\_\_\_\_.
- A bill is \_\_\_\_\_ and sent to the president after both houses of Congress have passed it.
- If the president decides that the bill is unneeded or unwise he can \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- Congress can \_\_\_\_\_ the president's veto with a two-thirds majority vote.

2. Use a straight line to match each word to its definition.

sponsor	to suggest	A
veto	discussion	B
propose	a draft of a proposed law	C
debate	one who proposes a law	D
bill	to say no, or forbid the passage of a law	E



## How a Bill Becomes a Law

**H**ave you ever thought that there should be a law for or against something? If so, you have taken the first step on the path to a bill becoming one of the laws of the land. Every law made by Congress starts with someone's idea. Of course, only a member of Congress can suggest or **propose** it.



**1. Think About It!** Suppose you have a good idea for a new law. Could YOU, PERSONALLY, suggest the law in Congress? Why or why not? Who are the only people who can propose a new law to the Senate of the House of Representatives?

The legislator who proposes the bill is its **sponsor**. A bill's sponsor places the bill in a special box on the Speaker of the House of Representatives' desk called a **hopper**. The bill is then given a name and number which means it is ready for its "**first reading**". The first reading of a bill means the bill's title is read on the House Floor. The bill is then sent to a **committee** or smaller group of legislators.

When a bill is in committee, the lawmakers study and **debate** or discuss it. Then, if they feel that the country needs this new law, they will vote to send the bill back to the House or Senate. When this happens the entire House or Senate votes on the bill. If it is approved, the bill is sent to the other part of Congress and the process begins again.

Finally, if the bill is approved by both houses of Congress, it is sent to the President for his approval. The President can either approve the bill, refuse to approve, or **veto**. When a presidential veto occurs, the bill goes back to Congress for another vote. If it is approved by a **two-thirds or more majority**, it becomes a law anyway. If it is not approved, the process is over.



**2. See What's Happening in Congress!** Go to <http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.html> and pull up today's date. You will get a summary of all the bills being considered. In your notebook, write down the number and a summary of one of the bills.

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

3. Number the events from 1 to 9 in the order they occur.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The president approves the bill or does not approve or vetoes it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The bill goes to a smaller group called a committee for discussion and debate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A bill is introduced by a member of Congress who sponsors it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The entire group votes on the bill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The bill is named and read to the entire group which is its "first reading".
- \_\_\_\_\_ If the entire group approves the bill, it goes to the other part of Congress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The committee approves the bill and returns it to the group for a vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Both sections of Congress approve the bill and send it to the President.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The bill goes back to Congress for another vote. If it gets a two-thirds majority approval, it becomes a law anyway. If not, the process is ended.

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

- Why do you think the law-making process has so many different parts? (Hint - remember that this is a democracy where people's opinions matter greatly.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Does the president have more power in the law-making process than the Congress? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you think that the law-making process is a very quick one? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How can the voters have a part in the legislative process?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Here are six writing tasks about the government of the United States. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the United States government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

**Task #1** Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. Organize your thoughts and knowledge about government and discuss the purpose(s) of government. In the United States' system of government, who or what are most important?

**Task #2** The Constitution of the United States has a very important purpose for its government. What is that purpose? What is the Constitution sometimes called?

**Task #3** The Declaration of Independence states that all citizens have certain rights. What are three of these rights? What document gives the citizens these and other rights?

**Task #4** Rights always come along with responsibilities. Think about the rights you discussed in Writing Task 3 as well as others. Discuss at least one of the responsibilities that comes along with them.

**Task #5** All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, poverty). If you were president of the United States, which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

**Task #6** The powers of all three branches of the U.S. government are equal. What document limits the powers of each branch? What is this limiting of powers called? Do you think that these limitations are good or bad? Tell why.





# Crossword Puzzle!

**Word List**

impeach	rights
enforce	nine
ratify	elected
Congress	nominate
government	Senate
House	resign
Ben	George
democracy	good
	power
	term
	defend
	anarchy
	veto

**Across**

- The person or group of people who make the rules or laws for everyone else
- In the United States government, leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ or chosen by the people
- The ability to control someone or something
- To put the president on trial
- Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the \_\_\_\_\_
- To keep safe from danger or attack
- Privileges that are due to people by law
- To approve a rule or a law
- To say no to a proposed law or bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ Franklin
- \_\_\_\_\_ Washington

**Down**

- A government should provide for the common \_\_\_\_\_ of its citizens
- To command obedience to \_\_\_\_\_
- The number of justices (judges) on the U.S. Supreme Court
- Length of time in elected office
- Makes federal laws
- Exists when there is no government in a country
- To choose or select \_\_\_\_\_
- A form of government in which the people choose who governs them
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Representatives
- To quit or leave office

# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- |            |           |                |          |
|------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| government | powers    | anarchy        | resign   |
| veto       | branch    | ratify         | laws     |
| Congress   | legislate | run            | leader   |
| vote       | election  | party          | debate   |
| checks     | democracy | justice        | war      |
| senator    | president | constitutional | clerk    |
| bill       | poll      | judges         | campaign |

g	a	b	c	d	e	f	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	n	p	q	
r	o	s	t	u	s	m	s	e	t	w	j	u	d	g	e	s		
r	x	v	y	r	z	a	b	c	a	e	r	u	g	h	i	i	w	
j	a	k	e	l	l	m	c	h	e	c	k	s	n	o	s	p	a	
q	r	w	s	r	t	o	u	y	w	x	y	t	z	a	e	b	l	
c	o	d	e	f	n	g	h	l	o	j	k	i	l	m	r	n	o	
p	p	q	r	g	s	m	t	t	u	v	w	c	x	y	z	a	b	
c	d	e	r	f	g	h	e	i	j	k	l	e	t	a	b	e	d	
m	n	e	o	p	q	v	r	i	s	e	t	c	u	v	w	e	x	
y	s	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	t	g	l	h	i	j	m	k	l	
s	m	n	o	p	e	q	r	o	s	e	t	e	u	o	v	w	x	
y	z	a	b	c	m	o	v	e	r	f	g	h	c	i	j	k	n	
l	m	l	n	o	e	p	q	k	r	s	t	r	u	t	v	o	w	
x	s	e	n	a	t	o	r	y	z	a	a	b	c	d	i	e	f	
g	h	a	i	j	a	k	l	m	n	c	o	n	p	t	q	o	r	
s	t	d	u	v	l	w	x	y	y	z	a	b	a	c	d	e	n	
h	f	e	a	n	s	i	j	k	l	m	n	n	o	r	p	q	r	
c	s	r	a	i	f	y	n	g	i	a	p	m	a	c	t	u		
n	v	w	x	y	g	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	h	j	
a	k	l	p	r	e	s	i	d	e	n	e	t	m	n	o	p	q	y
r	r	s	o	t	l	u	v	w	x	y	z	p	a	r	t	y	a	
b	i	l	l	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	u	l	m	n	
o	p	q	l	a	n	o	i	t	u	t	i	t	s	n	o	c	r	



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part A



Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- The Declaration of Independence was written after the Revolutionary War in order to set up a government for the new country.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- Many men helped write the Constitution of the United States.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- The Supreme Law of the United States is the Declaration of Independence.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- The only way to change the Constitution of the United States is by the vote of the Supreme Court.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- The Supreme Court is the only branch of government in which the people cannot directly vote for its members.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_
- The executive branch of government includes the vice-president and his staff.  
**True** **False** \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL: /10

## The White House (Washington D.C.)





# How a Bill Becomes a Law



3. Number the events from **1** to **9** in the order they occur.

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) The president approves the bill or does not approve or vetoes it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) The bill goes to a smaller group called a committee for discussion and debate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) A bill is introduced by a member of Congress who sponsors it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) The entire group votes on the bill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) The bill is named and read to the entire group which is its "first reading".
- \_\_\_\_\_ f) If the entire group approves the bill, it goes to the other part of Congress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g) The committee approves the bill and returns it to the group for a vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h) Both sections of Congress approve the bill and send it to the President.
- \_\_\_\_\_ i) The bill goes back to Congress for another vote. If it gets a two-thirds majority approval, it becomes a law anyway. If not, the process is ended.

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

4. Why do you think the law-making process has so many different parts? (Hint - remember that this is a democracy where people's opinions matter greatly.)

5. Does the president have more power in the law-making process than the Congress? Why or why not?

6. Do you think that the law-making process is a very quick one? Why or why not?

7. How can the voters have a part in the legislative process?

3.

Answers will vary

- a) 8
- b) 3
- c) 1
- d) 5
- e) 2
- f) 6
- g) 4
- h) 7
- i) 9

4.

Accept any reasonable answer

5.

Accept any reasonable answer

6.

Accept any reasonable answer

7.

Accept any reasonable answer

Across:

- 1. government
- 5. elected
- 6. power
- 7. impeach
- 11. Senate
- 12. defend
- 13. rights
- 14. ratify
- 17. veto
- 18. Ben
- 19. George

Down:

- 1. good
- 2. enforce
- 3. nine
- 4. term
- 8. Congress
- 9. anarchy
- 10. nominate
- 12. democracy
- 15. House
- 16. resign



# EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

10

11

12