



CONTENT VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 6

The Legislative Branch

Directions: Next to each vocabulary word, write the letter of the definition, shown in the right column, that correctly describes it.

Section 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. bicameral | A. a population count |
| _____ 2. census | B. a permanent committee in a house of Congress that continues its work from session to session |
| _____ 3. constituent | C. in the House and the Senate, the political party to which more than half of the members belong |
| _____ 4. gerrymander | D. a person who is represented in a district |
| _____ 5. majority party | E. a two-part body |
| _____ 6. minority party | F. in the House and the Senate, the political party to which less than half of the members belong |
| _____ 7. standing committee | G. the status earned by the longest-serving senators or representatives in Congress |
| _____ 8. seniority | H. an oddly shaped district designed to increase the voting strength of a particular group |

Section 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| _____ 9. expressed powers | A. a section in the Constitution that allows Congress to expand or stretch its powers if needed |
| _____ 10. implied powers | B. to accuse officials of misconduct in office |
| _____ 11. elastic clause | C. laws that make an act a crime after the act has been committed |
| _____ 12. impeach | D. a court order that requires the police to bring a prisoner to court to explain why they are holding that person |
| _____ 13. writ of habeas corpus | E. a law that punishes a person without a trial by jury |
| _____ 14. bill of attainder | F. Congressional powers that are not explicitly stated |
| _____ 15. ex post facto law | G. Congressional powers that are explicitly stated |



CONTENT VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 6 (continued)

The Legislative Branch

Section 3

- _____ 16. franking privilege
 - _____ 17. lobbyist
 - _____ 18. casework
 - _____ 19. pork-barrel project
- A. a person who is hired by a private group to influence government decision makers
 - B. government projects and grants that primarily benefit the home district or state
 - C. troubleshooting performed by a member of Congress for his or her home district
 - D. the benefit given to Senators and representatives that allows them to send job-related mail without paying postage

Section 4

- _____ 20. joint resolution
 - _____ 21. special-interest group
 - _____ 22. filibuster
 - _____ 23. cloture
 - _____ 24. voice vote
 - _____ 25. roll-call vote
 - _____ 26. veto
 - _____ 27. pocket veto
 - _____ 28. standing vote
- A. procedure in which no Senator can speak for more than an hour
 - B. refuse to sign a bill
 - C. a vote that is recorded as each person's name is called
 - D. talk a bill to death
 - E. the process by which a bill dies because the president does not sign the bill and the Congressional session has already adjourned
 - F. a vote that is taken when people respond with "Yea" or "No"
 - G. a vote in which supporters and opponents stand to be counted
 - H. a formal statement that is passed by both houses of Congress
 - I. an organization made up of people with some common interest who try to influence government decisions



ACADEMIC VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 6

The Legislative Branch

Academic Words in This Chapter

occur	regulate	estimate
adjust	draft	element
complex	category	

A. Word Meaning Activity: Identifying Synonyms and Antonyms

Directions: Determine whether the following pairs of words or phrases are synonyms or antonyms. (*Synonyms* have similar meanings, and *antonyms* have opposite meanings.) Place an *S* in the blank if the words or phrases are synonyms and an *A* if they are antonyms.

- _____ 1. element—whole
- _____ 2. draft—draw up
- _____ 3. adjust—adapt
- _____ 4. estimate—judge
- _____ 5. complex—easy
- _____ 6. occur—happen
- _____ 7. regulate—control
- _____ 8. category—class



RETEACHING ACTIVITY 6

The Legislative Branch

The legislative branch of our government, like the other two branches, has specific duties assigned to it by our Constitution. Because members of Congress are direct representatives of the people, the Framers intended the legislative branch to be the most powerful branch of the government. Knowledge of the structure and activities of Congress is essential to meaningful citizenship.

Directions: Filling in the Blanks The two branches of Congress work together, but they are different in form and function. Fill in the blank in each statement below with the correct letter to show your understanding of these similarities and differences.

The House of Representatives (H)
The Senate (S)
Congress (C)

1. _____ has a total of 535 members.
2. Members of _____ serve six-year terms.
3. Each member of _____ represents an entire state.
4. _____ reviews bills in committee.
5. _____ has the power to regulate commerce.
6. _____ has the authority to impeach the president.
7. Members of _____ serve two-year terms.
8. Members of _____ can filibuster to delay the vote on a bill.
9. The districts of _____ are sometimes subject to gerrymandering.
10. _____ consists of two elected members from each state.