

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Do you know who makes our country's laws? Some of the people who make our laws are senators. Each state chooses two senators. Big states choose two senators. So do small states. Senators work for six years. They work to make laws that help the people of their states. They work in Washington, DC. They also work in their home states. To be a senator, a person must be at least thirty years old. A senator must also be a citizen of the United States for at least nine years. Senators must also be residents of their states. That means they must live in the states they represent. Do you know the names of your state's senators?

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total**1.** Senators must

- (A) choose new senators.
- (B) be at least twenty years old.
- (C) make twenty laws every year.
- (D) be residents of their state.

2. How many senators does each state choose?

- (A) six
- (B) three
- (C) two
- (D) five

3. The suffix *-or* tells you that a *senator* is

- (A) someone who does something.
- (B) a place.
- (C) a king.
- (D) a way to do something.

4. Which word is defined in the context of the text?

- (A) state
- (B) residents
- (C) laws
- (D) citizen

5. Which word best describes the tone?

- (A) conversational
- (B) sorrowful
- (C) comical
- (D) upset

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1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

In which state do you live? Wherever you live, you have a representative. States with a lot of people have lots of representatives. States with smaller populations have fewer representatives. Some states only have one! Representatives work in Washington, DC. They also work in their home districts. Districts are smaller regions of a state. So, a big state has several districts. Representatives work to make laws that will help their districts. They are chosen for two years. They must be at least twenty-five years old. They must also be U.S. citizens for at least seven years. They do not need to live in their districts. But they must live in the same state.

1. States with more _____ have more representatives.

- (A) buildings
- (B) people
- (C) land
- (D) money

2. Which is **not** true about representatives?

- (A) They are chosen for two years.
- (B) They work in Washington, DC.
- (C) They must be at least twenty-five years old.
- (D) They must live in their districts.

3. Which word makes a new word by adding the suffix *-er*?

- (A) have
- (B) you
- (C) few
- (D) live

4. What does *elected* mean?

- (A) people
- (B) chosen
- (C) districts
- (D) representatives

5. The phrase *at least twenty-five years old* means

- (A) twenty-five and younger
- (B) younger than twenty-five
- (C) twenty-five and older
- (D) older than twenty-five

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DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Laws are made to help keep people safe. How are laws passed or made? First, a member of Congress creates a bill. Senators are members of Congress. So are representatives. The Senate and the House of Representatives are the two houses of Congress. Any senator or representative can create a bill. Bills are laws that have not been passed yet. After a bill is created, the Senate and the House of Representatives vote on the bill. They decide whether the bill should be a law. If they vote that the bill should not be a law, then it doesn't become a law. If they vote that a bill should be a law, then Congress sends the bill to the president. When the president signs a bill, it becomes a law.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

1. What happens if Congress votes that a bill should **not** be a law?
- (A) The bill doesn't become a law.
 - (B) The president signs the bill.
 - (C) Congress votes on the bill.
 - (D) The bill is sent to the president.

2. What is the last step in making a law?
- (A) A senator or a representative creates a bill.
 - (B) Congress votes on the bill.
 - (C) The president signs the bill.
 - (D) Congress sends the bill to the president.

3. Which words do **not** have the same suffix?

- (A) *passed* and *created*
- (B) *signs* and *sends*
- (C) *vote* and *made*
- (D) *laws* and *Representatives*

4. Which is a synonym for *create*?

- (A) want
- (B) sign
- (C) eat
- (D) make

5. *Congress creates* is an example of

- (A) a hyperbole.
- (B) a metaphor.
- (C) personification.
- (D) alliteration.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

LET'S VISIT CONGRESS!



The Capitol Building

How does our government work? There are three branches of government. One of those branches is the legislative branch. The verb *legislate* means to make laws. That is one thing this branch does. We call this branch *Congress*. Congress has two houses, or sides. One house is the Senate. There are 100 senators. Why? Each state gets to choose two senators. Senators are chosen for six years.

The other house is the House of Representatives. There are 435 representatives. States with a lot of people have a lot of representatives. States with fewer people do not. Some states only have one. Representatives are chosen for two years. Representatives and senators are members of Congress.

Members of Congress work in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. One of their jobs is to make laws that will help people. How do they do that? First, a member of Congress creates a bill. Then, Congress votes on whether that bill should be a law. If Congress votes “yes” on the bill, then the bill goes to the president. When the president signs the bill, it becomes a law. If Congress votes “no” on the bill, then it does not become a law.

Congress doesn't just make laws. It is in charge of taxes. It is also in charge of making coins and other money. Congress also makes treaties, or agreements, with other countries. Congress does other things, too. It is an important branch of government.

But Congress can't do whatever it wants to do. There are two other branches of government. Those branches limit what Congress can do. One branch makes sure that the laws Congress creates are fair. The other branches also do other things that Congress cannot do. All three branches have to work together. That way, our government works for everyone.

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DIRECTIONS

Read "Let's Visit Congress!" and then answer the questions.

SCORE**1.** Which alternative title fits the text?

- (A) Senators and Representatives
- (B) Roots, Branches, and Leaves
- (C) My Day at the Capitol Building
- (D) The House of Representatives

2. A reader would most likely read this text to be

- (A) entertained by facts about the U.S. government.
- (B) informed about the branches of the U.S. government.
- (C) persuaded to run for political office.
- (D) entertained by a fictional trip to the Capitol Building.

3. Why do you think Delaware has only one representative?

- (A) Delaware is near the Atlantic Ocean.
- (B) Delaware is a small state.
- (C) Delaware does not have many people.
- (D) Delaware wants only one representative.

4. What is the first step in making a law?

- (A) A member of Congress creates a bill.
- (B) The president signs the bill.
- (C) Congress sends the bill to the president.
- (D) Congress votes on the bill.

5. Which is **not** true about members of the House of Representatives??

- (A) There are two from each state.
- (B) There are 435 representatives.
- (C) They serve two-year terms.
- (D) They work in the Capitol Building.

6. Why do all three branches of government have to work together?

- (A) Congress can do whatever it wants.
- (B) Each branch can do things that the other branches can't do.
- (C) The president can do anything.
- (D) Each branch is in charge of making laws.

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

___ / 6

Total

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Reread “Let’s Visit Congress!” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

If you could create a new law, what would your law be about? Describe your new law and the process it takes to pass the law.

SCORE

____/4

[illegible]