

Instructions

Read the information below about how Congress works. Then, complete the activities to test your understanding!

What is Congress?

Congress is the legislative branch of the United States government. It is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is responsible for making laws, representing the people, and overseeing the government.

The Two Houses

- **Senate:** Each state has 2 Senators. Senators serve a 6-year term. Their main duties include reviewing and approving laws, ratifying treaties, and confirming presidential appointments.
- **House of Representatives:** The number of Representatives from each state is based on its population. Representatives serve a 2-year term. They introduce bills and represent the interests of their constituents.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. A bill is introduced in either the House or the Senate.
2. The bill is discussed and modified in committees.
3. The bill is debated and voted on by the entire house.
4. If passed, the bill goes to the other house to repeat the process.
5. If both houses pass the bill, it goes to the President, who can sign it into law or veto it.

Activity 1: Fill in the Blanks

Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the sentences.

- Senate
- Representatives
- Bill
- Veto
- Law

1. The two houses of Congress are the _____ and the _____.
2. A _____ must be passed by both houses to become a _____.
3. The President can choose to _____ a bill if they do not agree with it.

Activity 2: Short Answer

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Why is it important for Congress to have two houses?

2. What role does the President play in the process of making laws?

Activity 3: Drawing Activity

Draw a diagram showing the steps of how a bill becomes a law. Label each step clearly.

Bonus Activity

Research one current bill being discussed in Congress and write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about its purpose and status.
