

Congress in a *FLASH*

Name: _____

Help the Historian. Someone has found an early copy of the Constitution, but it is in pretty bad shape, and lots of pieces are missing—especially in Article I. Now that you know about Congress, you can help fill in the gaps! Read each excerpt and decide what should go where the numbers are.

SECTION. 2.

(1) shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a (2) who shall not have attained to the Age of (3) Years, and been seven Years a (4) of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.... (5)

1. Which chamber of congress is Section 2 talking about?
2. What role is missing here?
3. How old must they be to serve?
4. Seven years of being a *what*?
5. What does that last part mean? Can you put it in simpler language?

SECTION. 3.

(1a) of the United States shall be composed of two (1b) from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each ... shall have one Vote.

No Person shall be a ...who shall not have attained to the Age of (2) Years, and been (3) Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he (4) shall be chosen.

1. Which chamber of congress is Section 3 talking about? What is this role called?
2. How old must they be to serve?
3. How long must they have been a citizen?
4. FYI— The first woman to be elected to this chamber was Hattie Caraway of Arkansas in 1932.

SECTION. 5.

...Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings (1), punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member ... (2)

1. Who makes the rules for how the House and Senate do their jobs?
2. CHALLENGE QUESTION: If the Senate wants to expel a member, how many other Senators have to agree?

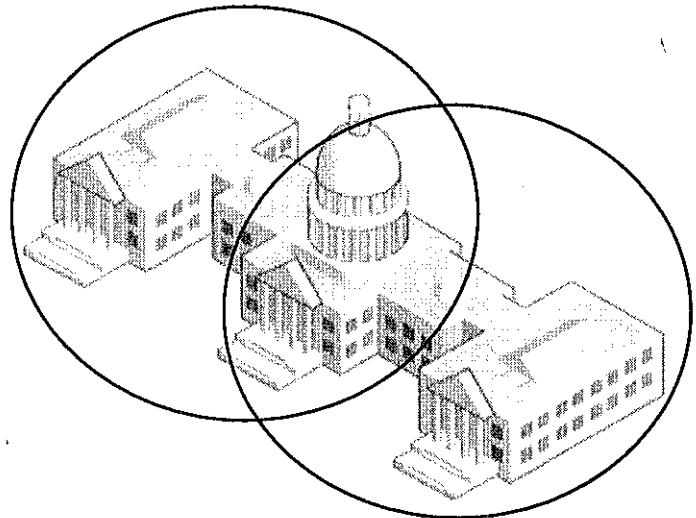
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A. Who does what? Read each statement and decide if it is about the House of Representatives, the Senate, or both! Write the letter on the diagram.

- A. Members represent an entire state
- B. Bills about taxes and money must start here
- C. Approves presidential appointments
- D. Members represent citizens
- E. Serve two-year terms
- F. Passes bills onto the president to become laws
- G. There are 100 members of this chamber
- H. Can override a presidential veto with a 2/3 vote of support
- I. Have to be at least 25 to serve in this chamber

The House of Representatives



The Senate

B. Compromise! Just because Congress is made up of two different chambers, doesn't mean that they don't have to work together to get the job done. Read through each version of this imaginary bill to see where common ground might be found.

1. Read both bills. Circle the items that the versions of the bills have in common.

House Version of the Education Bill

- Increase funding for afterschool activities.
- Encourage teachers to fundraise for classroom materials.
- Extend the school year by 10 days.
- Lengthen the school day by one hour.
- Allow students to create their own classes.

Senate Version of the Education Bill

- Cut funding for afterschool activities.
- Encourage teachers to buy classroom materials with their own money.
- Extend the school year by 6 days.
- Require the school day to start earlier.
- Improve school lunches with more local produce.

2. Find a solution. Select two items that could go in the final section of the bill and write them below. (You may need to find middle ground.)

Item One:

Item Two:

3. Getting Support. You had to make some hard choices. Which chamber will support your compromise the most? Would they both agree? Explain your answer.