

U.S. SENATE

SCAVENGER HUNT

1 The U.S. Senate is a part of the Legislative Branch of the federal (national) government. The Senate and House of Representatives make up Congress. Congress is bicameral which means that it is divided into two houses. Each house has a unique role to make sure that the Legislative Branch fulfills its duties. It is also divided to prevent any one section of the Legislative Branch from becoming unreasonably powerful. The structure and role of the U.S. Senate is outlined in the United States Constitution in Article I. The Senate is often referred to as the "upper" house.

The Senate meets in the --- Building in Washington D.C.

CODE WORD

2 The word "senator" is derived from the Latin word for "old man". The first senators were Robert Mo... Pennsylvania in 17... always the same, ... Today, there are ... the Senate. All st... of pop...

3 The senators represent the interests of their own state in the Senate. There are requirements to be a senator listed in the Constitution. A senator must be 30 years old, must have been a U.S. citizen for at least the last nine years, and must be a legal resident of the state that they are representing. Senators serve a six-year term. The senator can serve as many terms as they like because there is no term limit, as long as they are re-elected. Every two years, an election for senators is held. In this election, only one-third of the senators will be voted on. This means that the elections are staggered for the Senate.

Both houses of congress have --- power but different roles.

CODE WORD

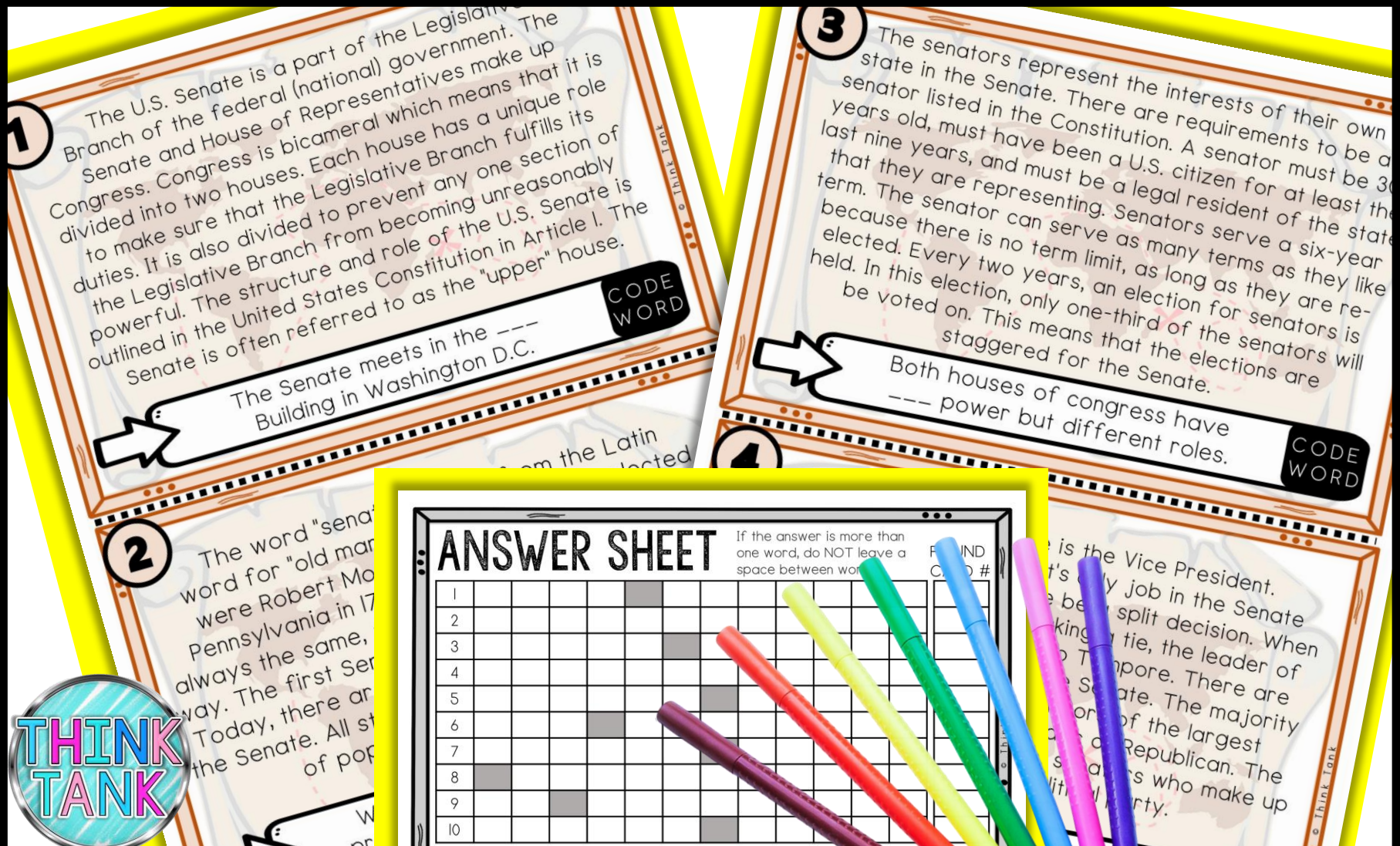
4 ... is the Vice President. It's only job in the Senate is to break a tie in the Senate. When there is a tie, the leader of the majority party in the Senate, the majority leader, is chosen to be the Senate's floor manager. The majority leader is a Republican. The Senate is made up of 100 senators who make up the Senate's majority party.

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

THINK TANK



10 READING CARDS

1 The U.S. Senate is a part of the Legislative Branch of the federal (national) government. The Senate and House of Representatives make up Congress. Congress is bicameral which means it is divided into two houses. Each house has its own duties. It is also divided to prevent any one part of the Legislative Branch from becoming too powerful. The structure and role of the Senate is often referred to as the "upper house".

The Senate meets in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

3 The senators represent the interests of their own state in the Senate. There are requirements to be a senator listed in the Constitution. A senator must be 30 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and must be a legal resident of the state they are representing. Senators serve 6-year terms. The senator can serve as many terms as they want because there is no term limit, as long as they are re-elected. Every two years, an election for senators is held. In this election, only one-third of the senators will be voted on. This means that the elections are staggered for the Senate.

Both houses of congress have equal power but different roles.

5 Throughout its history, the US Congress has met in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. The permanent location of Washington D.C. was established in the Residence Act of 1790. Today, the Senate meets in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

What word means divided into two houses? **CODE WORD**

2 The word "senator" comes from the Latin word for "old man." The first senators were Robert Morris and William Mifflin in Pennsylvania in 1788. The number of senators is always the same, though it hasn't always been that way. The first Senate, in 1789, only had 14 members.

4 The head of the Senate is the Vice President. However, the Vice President's only job in the Senate is to break a tie, should there be a split decision. When the Vice President is not breaking a tie, the leader of the Senate is the President Pro Tempore. There are also other leadership roles in the Senate. The majority leader will be elected by senators of the larger party.

While the Senate has many different roles and responsibilities, the main task is to vote on new legislation (laws). They do this in conjunction (together) with the House of Representatives. While the House of Representatives has unique powers, so does the Senate. This division of powers helps ensure a system of checks and balances.

7 The Senate has the power to ratify (approve) treaties and also works to open up executive hearings. A two-thirds vote is necessary for ratification. The Senate also has the power of picking judges, Supreme Court Justices, Ambassadors and other high-level leaders.

The word "senator" comes from the Latin word for "old man."

Both houses of Congress must agree on a bill. If both houses agree on a law, the President has the opportunity to sign it or veto it. Even if there is a veto, it can be voted on again by the House and the Senate. If there is a two-thirds majority vote in both houses, the President's veto is nullified or cancelled. This is all part of the checks and balances.

The Senate also assists the President in picking _____ members.

8 Sometimes, senators want to block or delay a bill from passing for a variety of reasons. The strategy of prolonging is called a filibuster. Before there is no limit on how long a debate can be. Now, senators can take as much time as they need. It becomes excessively lengthy, three-fifths of the senators can vote to end the speech of that particular senator. This is called cloture. In 1957, Strom Thurmond spoke against the Civil Rights Act, a filibuster that lasted for 24 hours and 18 minutes.

The vice president's only job in the Senate is to _____.

10 While Congress is divided into two houses, they both have to work together to accomplish many tasks. They each have equal power but different roles in fulfilling the purpose of the Legislative Branch.

How many years long is the term of a senator?

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. **FOUND CARD #**

1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

FINAL WORD ANSWER: _____

4 DIGIT CODE

Eliminate the number in the column in the SAME color in which you recorded the information about the clues.


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FINAL CODE: _____

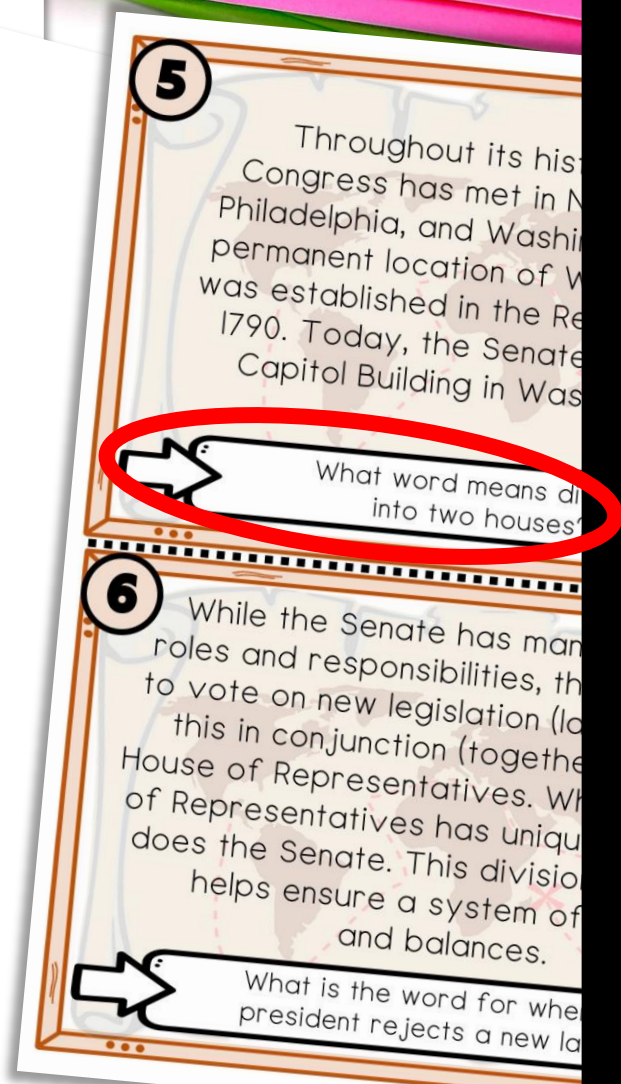
What 4 numbers are in the order you found them?

HOW IT WORKS



ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

- 1** Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 10 reading cards scattered around the room.
- 2** Students read the passage and look at the question at the bottom labeled "code word".
- 3** The code word for THAT card number will lead them to a different card. But here's the catch... students will NOT know where to find the code word answer so they will have to skim, browse and revisit the reading cards several times to find the answer they are seeking.



COMBINATION



This scavenger hunt is a winning combination of:

- ✓ **movement**
- ✓ **close reading**
- ✓ **comprehension skills**
- ✓ **mystery words & codes**
- ✓ **citing evidence**
- ✓ **critical thinking**

Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!

OPTIONS



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  MOVEMENT
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING

