

CHECKS AND BALANCES

ESCAPE ROOM

Station 1: Multiple Choice

6 How many houses is Congress made up of?

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 5

Station 2: Paragraphs

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement can be found in. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all. Use the directions below to reveal the 4-digit code and letter clue.

A Both houses must approve the law in identical form is enacted.

B Franklin D. Roosevelt vetoed 635 bills, more than any president.

C The Executive Branch, or Article II, enforces the law.

D Congress controls all the money to put the President into action.

Station 3: True or False

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet that corresponds with that question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin value. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE coin values to reveal your letter clue. One digit of the code has been provided for you. If the total is 625, a 6 would go in the first box, the 2 in the second box and so on.

A 75
B 25
C 100
D 50
E 100
F 50

Station 4: Logic Puzzle

Branch MINUS 3.

The FIRST number of the lock is the number of Senators that serve as the jury for impeachments MINUS 91.

The THIRD number of the lock is the year of the Constitutional Convention MINUS 1780.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN ALL ODD COMBO

J K P

Station 5: Reading Passage

The President nominates --- officials such as cabinet members and those who work in the Federal Reserve, but the --- (part of the Legislative Branch) must approve those people. The President also has power over the Judicial Branch by appointing --- judges during their time as President if any vacancies should come up. However, Congress can impeach both members of the Executive and Judicial branches by voting based on what the people think is right. If a President is impeached (accused of misconduct while in office), the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial in the Senate where the --- U.S. Senators serve as the jury.

Within Congress, the two houses keep the Legislative Branch balanced. The House of Representatives and the Senate check each other when new laws are being created.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN ALL ODD COMBO

B K P

Station 6: Checks and Balances

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land in the United States. It was written in 1787 at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The constitution simply means plan of government. The US Constitution sets the rules and laws of the government. The US government has three main functions for its citizens. The US government has three branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. These branches are known as the three branches of government. The Executive branch acts on behalf of the government. The Legislative branch, or Article I, makes laws. The Judicial branch, or Article III, interprets the laws. The Framers of the Constitution believed that government could have too much power if it was not balanced. The Executive branch checks the Legislative branch. The Legislative branch checks the Executive branch. The Judicial branch checks both the Executive and Legislative branches.

Influenced by the French Revolution, the Framers divided the government into three branches, or Article I, makes laws. The Executive branch, or Article II, makes laws. The Executive branch, or Article II, makes laws. The Executive branch, or Article II, makes laws.

THINK TANK

STATIONS ACTIVITY

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ READING PASSAGE
- ✓ 5 STATIONS
- ✓ TEACHER GUIDE
- ✓ ANSWER KEY
- ✓ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ✓ TEXT MARKING OPTION
- ✓ PROP SIGNS

STATION 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

Use your reading passage to determine the missing words in the paragraph below. Each missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code for this station will be the NUMBER for each missing word, in the same order in which they appear in the paragraph. Then, record the clue LETTER on your answer sheet.

STATION 2: PARAGRAPHS

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement can be found in. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all. Follow the directions below to reveal the 4-digit code and letter clue.

STATION 3: TRUE OR FALSE

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet that corresponds with that question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin value. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE coin values to reveal your letter clue. One digit of the code has been provided for you. If the total is 625, a 6 would go in the first box, the 2 in the second box and so on.

STATION 4: COMBINATION

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock for this station. You're going to have to use your critical thinking skills and do a tiny bit of math. Pay attention because the "clues" below are NOT in order. There is room on your answer sheet to do the math.

STATION 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Answer each multiple-choice question below. Then, count the number of times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to reveal your 4-digit code. Letters may be used more than once or not at all. If a letter option is not used, put a zero in that box on your answer sheet.

ANSWER RECORDING SHEET

Record your answers for each station on this sheet. Then, use the directions below to determine final 4-digit ALPHA code. Ex: HBDR

STATION CODES

LETTER CLUE

STATION 1	→	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CODE	<input type="text"/>
-----------	---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------	----------------------

A	B	C	D	E	F	<input type="text"/>
---	---	---	---	---	---	----------------------

STATION 2	→	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CODE	<input type="text"/>
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ENTER

1

2

3

TEACHER DIRECTION

- 1 Print the reading passage found on [pages 5-6](#) for EACH (front and back).
- 2 Print the answer recording sheet on [page 12](#) for each student group of students.

RECAP: Print pages 5, 6, and 12 for students.

STATION

5

BLUE

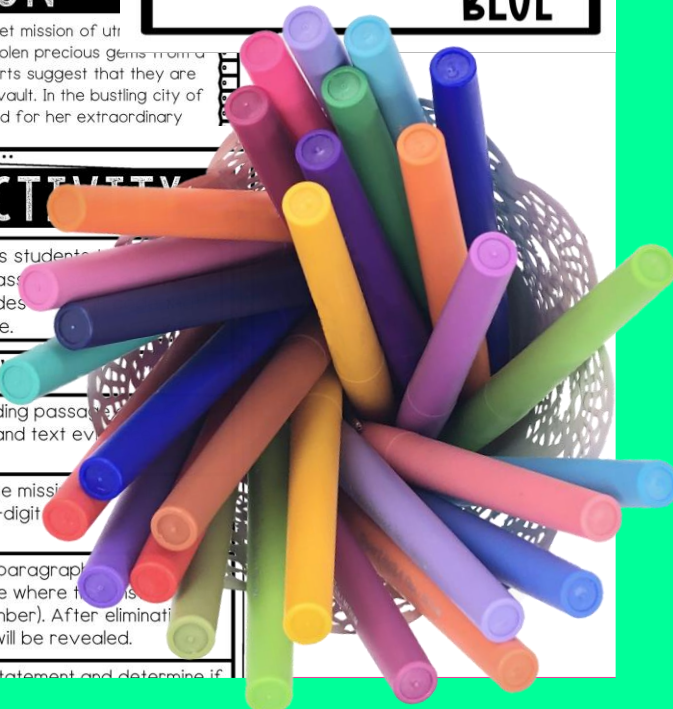
THE MISSION

You have been assigned a top-secret mission of utmost importance. A notorious thief has stolen precious gems from a prominent lady, and intelligence reports suggest that they are hidden in a heavily guarded secret vault. In the bustling city of Oakville, Lady Victoria was renowned for her extraordinary

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The reading passage in this packet allows students to practice their comprehension skills after reading the passage. Students will be searching for evidence. Each station includes a question that will reveal a letter clue.

	OVERVIEW
READING PASSAGE	Students will use the reading passage at each station seeking answers and text evidence.
STATION 1	Students will determine the missing word in the paragraph to reveal a 4-digit code.
STATION 2	Students will number the paragraphs in the reading passage to determine where the missing words can be found (paragraph number). After eliminating the incorrect numbers, a 4-digit code will be revealed.
STATION 3	Students will read each statement and determine if it is true or false.



5 STATIONS

STATION 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Answer each multiple-choice question below. Then, count how many times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to reveal your code. Letters may be used more than once or not at all. If an option is not used, put an X in that box on your answer sheet.

1 Which branch intervenes when a law is unconstitutional? Which word means to produce while in office?

A. Executive
B. Judicial
C. Legislative
D. Congress

A. Veto
B. Impeach
C. Enforce
D. Check

2 Who has the power to sign or veto bills? Which article of the Constitution describes the Executive Branch?

A. President
B. Supreme Court
C. Cabinet
D. House of Representatives

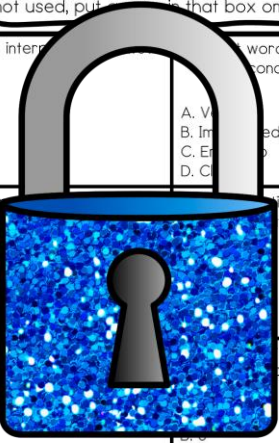
A. Article I
B. Article II
C. Article III
D. Article IV

3 What vote is needed for a bill to become a law? How many houses is Congress made of?

A. Three-fourths
B. One-half
C. One-third
D. Two-thirds

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 5

Count how many times you used each letter answer to determine the 4-digit code and record it on your answer sheet.



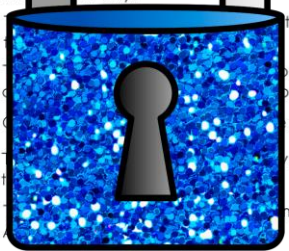
ANSWER RECORDING SHEET

Record your answers for each station on this sheet. Then, use the directions below to determine final 4-digit ALPHA code. Ex: HBDR

STATION CODES	LETTER ANSWERS
STATION 1: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
STATION 2: A B C D E F	<input type="text"/>
STATION 3: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
STATION 4: Do your math in this area:	<input type="text"/>
STATION 5: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

1 2 3 4 5 6

A# B# C# D#



STATION 4: COMBINATION

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock for this station. You're going to have to use your critical thinking skills and do a tiny bit of math. Pay attention because the "clues" below are NOT in order. There is room on your answer sheet to write the math.

1 LAST number of the lock is the number of bills Franklin D. Roosevelt vetoed MINUS 91.

2 SECOND number of the lock is the article number of the Constitution that describes the Executive Branch.

3 Lock is made of metal.

4 Lock is made of wood.

5 Lock is made of plastic.

6 Lock is made of glass.

7 Lock is made of metal.

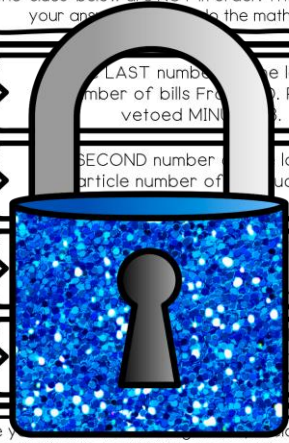
8 Lock is made of wood.

9 Lock is made of plastic.

10 Lock is made of glass.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD	COMBO
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STATION 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use your reading passage to determine the missing word in each paragraph below. Each missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code for this station will be the NUMBER of each missing word in the order in which they appear in the paragraph. Then, use the letter clue to determine your answer.

1 choosing a bill to pass. 4 Cabinet members. 7 Senate members.

2 denying a bill. 5 federal judges. 8 local government.

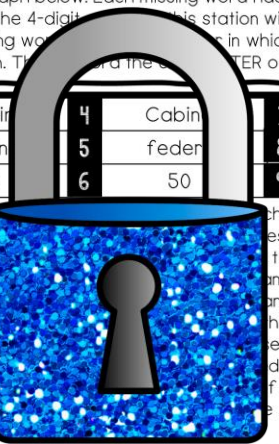
3 100 members. 6 50 members. 9 4 members.

The President has the power to sign or veto bills. Cabinet members and judges are part of the Executive Branch. The President also has the power to appoint and remove judges. (---) judges come up. However, the President can only remove judges if they have been impeached. Executive orders are laws that the President can issue without Congress. People think of the President as the head of the government. The President presides over the Executive Branch. The President also serves as the commander in chief of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Within Congress, the two houses keep the Legislative Branch balanced. The House of Representatives and the Senate create other when new laws are being created.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD	COMBO
B	H	M



STATION 3: TRUE OR FALSE

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet that matches that question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin. Once you are finished coloring, use the letter clue to determine your answer. One digit of the code is provided for you as a clue. One digit of the code is provided for you as a clue.

A 75 A. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

B 25 B. The Constitutional Convention in 1787 took place in New York City.

C 50 C. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

D 100 D. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

E. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

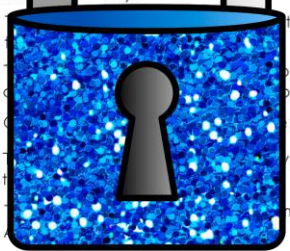
F. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

G. The President can "check" Congress by vetoing a bill.

H. Congress then has the ability to override the veto with a three-fourths majority vote.

After shading the coins on your answer sheet, use the letter clue to determine your answer.

275	300	3
G	D	



STATION 2: PARAGRAPHS

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the word can be found in. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than once or not at all. Follow the directions below to determine the 4-digit code and letter clue.

A Both houses must approve the law in formal form before it is enacted.

B Franklin D. Roosevelt vetoed 635 bills, more than any other president.

C The Executive Branch enforces the laws.


D Congress can override a President's orders.

E Congress has the power to impeach a President.

F The word constitution simply means plan of government.

ELIMINATE the highest and lowest used paragraph numbers and record the remaining 4-digit code on your answer sheet. Decide which paragraph number was NOT used as a CODE answer.

NO 2	NO 8	NO 3
L	C	W



STATIONS

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence. Each station includes a 4-digit code that will reveal a letter clue.


OVERVIEW

READING PASSAGE	Students will use the reading passage at EACH station seeking answers and text evidence.
STATION 1	Students will determine the missing words in the paragraph to reveal a 4-digit code.
STATION 2	Students will number the paragraphs and browse the passage to determine where the answers can be found (paragraph number). After eliminating numbers, a 4-digit code will be revealed.
STATION 3	Students will read each statement and determine if it is true or false. They will then ADD all TRUE values to find the 4-digit code.
STATION 4	Students will do some basic math here, read the passage to find the answers and then determine the 4 digit code.
STATION 5	Students will answer 6 multiple choice questions which lead them to a 4 digit code based on the number of times they used each "ABCD" answer.
TEXT MARKING	OPTIONAL: A color code chart is included in case you want students to mark the text, citing evidence of where they found their answers. (This will increase completion time)

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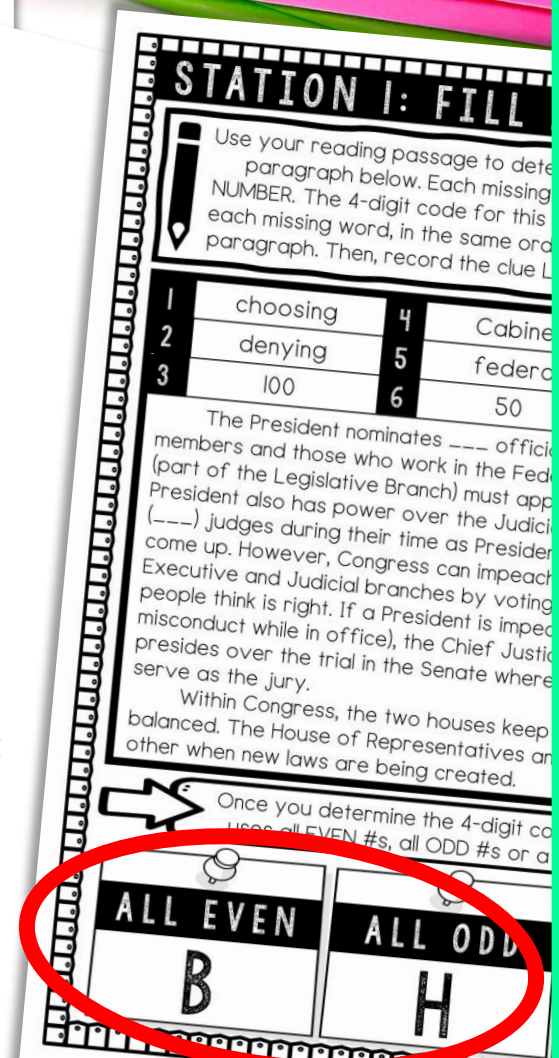
**STUDENTS WILL
USE THE SAME
READING
PASSAGE AT
EACH STATION
SEEKING
ANSWERS AND
TEXT EVIDENCE.**

HOW IT WORKS



ENGAGING READING
COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

- 1 Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 5 stations, answer questions, decipher a 4-digit code at each station and grab a "letter" clue for the final alpha code.
- 2 Students will answer the questions (found directly in the passage) on their own recording sheet. Students will have to revisit their reading passage several times at EACH station skimming for answers.



STATION 1: FILL

Use your reading passage to determine the missing word in each paragraph below. Each missing word has a 4-digit code for this station. Write the code for each missing word, in the same order as the missing word, in the same order as the missing word in the paragraph. Then, record the clue letter.

1	choosing	4	Cabine
2	denying	5	feder
3	100	6	50

The President nominates ____ officials and those who work in the Federal Reserve System (part of the Legislative Branch) must approve the President's appointments. The President also has power over the Judiciary. ____ judges during their time as President come up. However, Congress can impeach the President. The Executive and Judicial branches can impeach the President if people think is right. If a President is impeached, the Chief Justice presides over the trial in the Senate where the President serves as the jury.

Within Congress, the two houses keep a check and balance. The House of Representatives and the Senate are other when new laws are being created.

Once you determine the 4-digit code for each missing word, use all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of even and odd numbers to determine the letter.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD
B	H

BENEFITS

- ✓ STATIONS AND MOVEMENT
- ✓ CLOSE READING
- ✓ COMPREHENSION SKILLS
- ✓ SECRET CODES
- ✓ CITING EVIDENCE
- ✓ CRITICAL THINKING
- ✓ PRINT AND GO
- ✓ ACTIVE LEARNING
- ✓ CROSS-CURRICULAR
- ✓ HIGHLY ENGAGING
- ✓ NO LOCKS NEEDED
- ✓ NO SILLY ENVELOPES TO STUFF
- ✓ NO ODD SHAPES TO CUT OUT



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

USE FOR:



ANTICIPATORY SETS



UNIT REVIEW



EARLY FINISHERS



STATIONS



REWARD ACTIVITY



CENTERS



SUB PLANS



PARTNER WORK



ENRICHMENT

