

ABOUT THIS PACKET

Each reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

OVERVIEW

THE CASE

Read the case aloud to your students so they understand the mission.

QUESTIONS

There are 18 questions to be answered by reading the passage and marking the text evidence.

CLUES

After answering each question, the students will **erase** their answer choice on their answer sheet. After all questions have been answered, the suspect, evidence, and location will be revealed.

GRADE LEVEL

RANGE

4

BEGINNING

4

MIDDLE

5

BEGINNING

5

MIDDLE

5

END

6

BEGINNING

6

MIDDLE

6

END

7

BEGINNING

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch of the federal government has many jobs, but the most important one is to interpret the laws from Congress. This branch does not make any laws. It is responsible for interpreting what the laws mean and how they legally impact the citizens of the United States. The Judicial Branch, also known as Article III, is made up of courts and judges.

The court system in the Judicial Branch is structured in a hierarchy. Each court has a court judge over it who has more authority. The highest court is the Supreme Court. Under the Supreme Court is the Court of Appeals or Appellate Circuit Courts. There are thirteen of these courts. Appeals Courts have three judges and do not use a jury. Under the Court of Appeals, there are 94 District Courts. District Courts hear civil and criminal trials, with one judge and a jury.

The members of the Supreme Court are appointed, or chosen, by the President, then confirmed (approved) by the Senate. These people can hold their positions for life, if they desire. Mostly, the Supreme Court reviews cases from lower courts. Many cases that are sent to the Supreme Court do not go reviewed any further. Typically, the Supreme Court reviews around one hundred and fifty cases annually.

The only court listed in the US Constitution is the Supreme Court, giving Congress the power to create lower courts. While the Constitution does not explicitly state how many Supreme Court Justices there should be, it is usually between six and nine. Since 1869, the Supreme Court has maintained nine Justices. There is one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. There are an odd number of Justices to prevent a tie decision. The only constitutional requirement to become a Supreme Court Justice is "good behavior." There are no age requirements, citizenship requirements, and no education requirements. These judges are appointed

3

What is the main job of the Judicial Branch?



Enforce laws



Make laws



Interpret laws



Execute laws

4

How many Appeals Courts are there?



13



3



1



94

5

Which courts are below the Appeals Courts?



Congress



Supreme Court



Appellate Courts



District Courts

6

What is the term of a Justice?



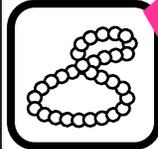
6 years



Life



2 years



16 years

7

How many District Courts are there?



56



56



94

8

Which amendment guarantees a speedy trial?



8th



7th



5th



6th

9

Which amendment includes double jeopardy?



4th



5th



6th



7th

10

How many Associate Justices are there?



9



8



9



13

CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

