

# ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
<b>TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS</b>	Using Close Reading strategies, students will use context clues to fill in the missing words in the reading passage. This will then be used as the main passage to use for the remaining tasks.
<b>TASK 2: VOCABULARY</b>	The vocabulary activity helps kids identify and understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
<b>TASK 3: RESPOND</b>	Students will choose from three writing prompts and write their answer to just one of them using complete sentences.
<b>TASK 4: TRUE OR FALSE</b>	Students complete this activity to show overall comprehension of the passage. They may refer back to the passage when necessary. In the end, they add up the TRUE statements.
<b>TASK 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE</b>	For a quick formative check for understanding, students will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
<b>TASK 6: WORD SEARCH</b>	Students will search for key vocabulary words related to the topic. Several unused letters will spell out a secret message.
<b>FINAL TASK: SUMMARY (OPTIONAL)</b>	This is an optional summary graphic organizer to use if needed. Could be used for early finishers as an extension activity, or as a final check for understanding.
GRADE LEVEL	RANGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

# TASK #1: FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

highest	1869	Congress
interpret	chosen	thirteen
list	tie	judges

The Judicial Branch of the federal government has many jobs, but the most important job is to \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

The court system in the Judicial Branch is structured in a hierarchy. Each court has a court that is over it or has more authority. The \_\_\_\_\_ court is the Supreme Court. Under the Supreme Court is the Court of Appeals or Appellate Circuit Courts. There are \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S. Constitution is the Supreme Court, giving \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ decision. The only constitutional requirement to become a Supreme Court Justice is "good behavior." There are no age requirements, no citizenship requirements, and no educational requirements. These judges are appointed for life for a reason. They can only be

# TASK #4: TRUE OR FALSE



EARN THIS!

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the gear that corresponds to that question. If it is false, cross out the gear. When you are finished add the **TOTAL** of ALL TRUE gears.



**A.** The Judicial Branch is Article III.



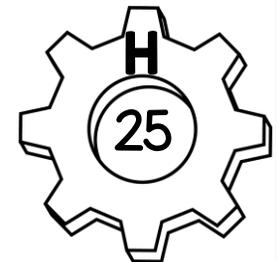
**B.** The Supreme Court is the highest court.



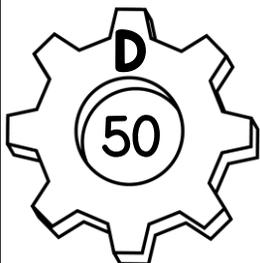
**C.** The main job of the Judicial Branch is to enforce the laws.



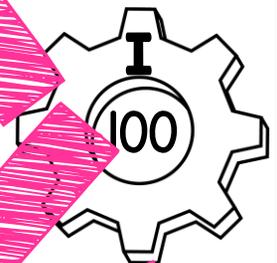
**D.** The Constitution lists four requirements to become a Justice.



**E.** There are 13 Appellate Courts.



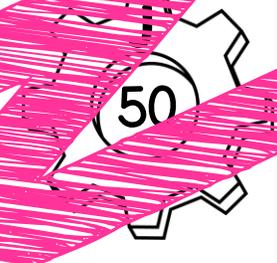
**F.** Under the Appellate Circuit Courts are the District Courts.



**G.** The Supreme Court has a total of nine Justices.



**H.** The president can appoint Supreme Court judges with consent by the Senate.



**I.** The right to a speedy trial is part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**J.** Justices are limited to a maximum of four two-year terms.

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

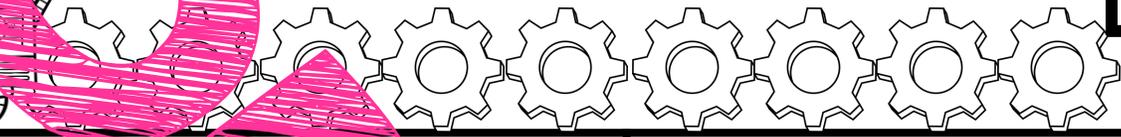
# TASK #5: MULTIPLE CHOICE



EARN THIS!



Complete the multiple choice questions below by circling the correct answer.



1. The Judicial Branch is Article \_\_\_\_.

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

6. Which amendment includes no cruel or unusual punishment?

- A. 5th
- B. 6th
- C. 8th
- D. 9th

2. How many District Courts are there?

- A. 1
- B. 13
- C. 58
- D. 94

7. What are Appeals Courts also known as?

- A. Appellate Circuit Courts
- B. District Courts
- C. Trial Circuit Courts
- D. Supreme Courts

3. How many requirements are listed in the Constitution to become a Justice?

- A. 3
- B. 1
- C. 4
- D. 2

8. Who must approve of presidential appointments?

- A. Senate
- B. Congress
- C. House of Representatives
- D. Chief Justice

4. What is the main job of the Judicial Branch?

- A. Veto laws
- B. Interpret laws
- C. Create laws
- D. Enforce laws

9. How many Appeals Courts are there?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 11
- D. 13

5. How many Associate Justices does the Supreme Court have?

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 8
- D. 9

10. How can a Justice be removed from their position?

- A. Impeachment
- B. Death
- C. Resignation
- D. All of the above

# BOT CARDS

Complete all 6 tasks correctly, then color and assemble your robot.



# Brilliant Bot Builder



a *read*

*For successfully  
completing 6 reading  
comprehension tasks.*

# MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon to learn more!

