

Sample Answers Congress in a Flash

Directions: Using the “Congress in a Flash” iCivics reading, answer the following questions and vocabulary activities.

The Powers of Congress

1. What branch of government does the U.S. Congress represent?
Legislative branch
2. What are the two chambers of Congress?
Senate and House of Representatives
3. What states are represented by the chambers?
All 50 states

Vocabulary Word	Definition (In your own words)
legislative branch	Makes laws
federal (national) laws	Laws that apply to their entire country
bicameral	Congress is split into two chambers; Senate and House of Representatives

Why Congress?

4. What was the goal of the U.S. Constitution when it was written?
To create a government that represents the people
5. What does Congress do?
 - Creating laws that reflect the needs and wants of U.S. citizens
 - Serves the nation as a whole
 - Represents the people
 - Senators- represent the whole state
 - House- represent a specific section of the state (district)

How does it work?

6. Where can you find the instructions for Congress?
Article I of the U.S. Constitution

	The Senate	The House of Representatives
Size	2 senators from each state=100	Number of representatives is based on the population- 435 total
Who qualifies?	Senators must be at least 30, a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and live in the state they represent	Representatives must be at least 25, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and live in the state and district they represent

They represent...	... the interests of the citizens across their entire state for a term of six years.	...the interest of the citizens who live in their district for a term of two years.
Special Duties	The Senate approves presidential appointments, like ambassadors, judges, and cabinet members.	All bills that deal with raising money (like taxes) must start in the House
Checks and Balances	Congress can call for the impeachment of the president, pass bills over a presidential veto with $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, and create lower federal courts. The president can veto bills from Congress and the Supreme Court can strike down laws as unconstitutional.	
Role in Lawmaking	A bill can start in either chamber unless it's a tax bill, which must start in the House. A bill must be approved by both chambers of Congress before it can go to the president to be signed into law.	

The Powers of Congress

7. List 5 examples of enumerated powers that Congress has.

- Collect taxes, pay debts, and borrow money
- Regulate trade
- Coin money
- Establish post offices
- Declare war

Who's In Charge?

Vocabulary Word	Definition (In your own words)
President Pro Tempore	An elected (by the Senators) Senate member who leads if the Vice President is not available
Speaker of the House	An elected (by the Representatives) Representative who leads

Making Laws

8. What is a bill?

A rough draft of a law that is introduced by Congress that follows a process to possibly becoming a law.

9. Where do bills start?

Bills can start in either the Congress or the House