

5.1a Structure of American Government

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Period: _____

The Structure of American Government

Using the Constitution, label the parts of the three branches.

Branch: Legislative
 Found in Article 1

(Party)	Democratic	Republican	(House)
	Senate		
	House of Representatives		(House)

Branch: Executive
 Found in Article 2

The President of the United States		L e g i s l a t i v e
C	Vice President	
a	Secretary of State	
b	Secretary of Defense	
i	Secretary of the Treasury	
n	Attorney General	
e	Commerce, Labor, HUD	
t	Transportation, Energy, VA	
Other depts, regulatory agencies		

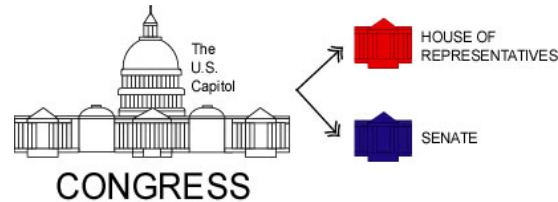
Branch: Judicial
 Found in Article 3

Supreme Court (Federal Levels)	
Court of Special Appeals	
Court of Appeals (State Levels)	
Circuit	
District	

Legislative Branch and Agencies

Where the Laws of the United States Are Made:

The east front of the Capitol



It Takes Two Houses: Congress is a bicameral or two-chambered legislature. Meeting place of the federal legislature, The Capitol, home of the Congress, in Washington DC

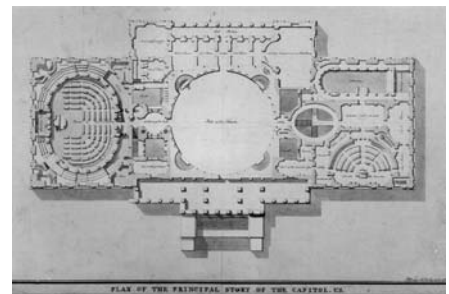


Virginia's Congressional Districts

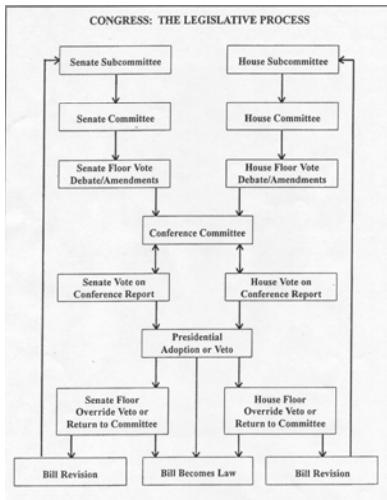
- Each district sends one person to the House of Representatives.
- The average district contains about 570,000 people.

Planning the Capitol:

- Early plan of the US Capitol building
 - Left: The House chamber
 - Right: The Senate
 - Center: The Rotunda



5.1b Structure of American Government



How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Both Houses can introduce bills.
- Both houses must present one identical bill to the President.
- Differences between the two bills are ironed out in the Conference Committee.

On The House Floor

- Each House has leaders, called “floor leaders.”
- House and Senate Majority and Minority leaders and assistant floor leaders ... “whips.”



Senate Leaders

- Tom Daschle (D-SD) minority leader
- Trent Lott (R-MS) majority leader in the 107th Congress

The Executive Branch

- The White House contains offices for the executive branch.
- It is also the residence of the president and the first family.
- It is one of the most recognizable symbols of American power.



The Executive Office of the President

Presidents —here, Bush and Clinton— depend on their cabinets for advice on issues and during crises.



5.1c Structure of American Government

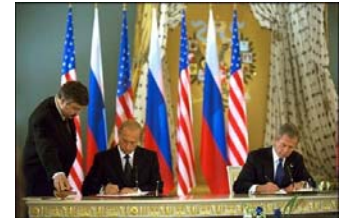


Bush as Chief Executive

- President Bush giving his 9/11 speech.
- Behind him are House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and President *Pro Tem* of the Senate, Robert Byrd (D-WV)

President As Foreign Policy Leader

- President Bush with President Putin of Russia signing a nuclear arms treaty.
- The Senate must approve all treaties.



American-British Alliance



Bush and Tony Blair appear relaxed at this 2003 UN meeting. Blair and Clinton were also close personally and politically.



Chief of State

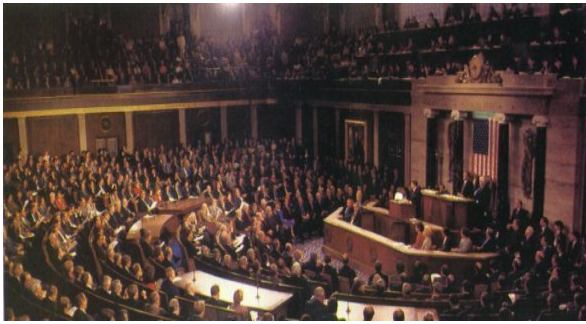
The President is the Chief of State as he represents the U.S. overseas. Seen at right: President Bush with Russian President Putin. President is also the Chief Diplomat, setting US foreign Policy.



JFK Gives 1963 State of the Union Speech

Pictured on left: President of the Senate and Former Senate Majority leader (Future President) Lyndon Johnson. On right: House Speaker John McCormick

5.1d Structure of American Government



Two Branches Working Together
 Ronald Reagan delivering his State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress

Bush Addresses Congress

- A Joint Session brings both houses together.
- The President can call special sessions of Congress.



White House photo by David Bohrer



The Judicial Branch
 The nine justices of the US Supreme Court, 2002

“Equal Justice Under Law”

- The Supreme Court Building.
- The words above, found in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, are inscribed across the center of the Supreme Court Building.



The U.S. Federal Court System

- Supreme
- Appeals
- District