**CONGRESS IN A FLASH**

**A. Fill in the Blank.** Read the “Congress in a Flash” PDF, then use the word bank below to complete each sentence. No key term will be used more than once.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bill | Legislative | Speaker of the House | Districts |
| President Pro Tempore | Senate | Make Laws | Checks & Balances |
| Six | ~~Congress~~ | Enumerated | Population |
| Bicameral | Veto | Committee | Two |

1) The name of our legislative branch is \_\_Congress\_\_\_.

2) The main job of Congress is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3) Congress is divided into two houses: the House of Representatives and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4) Congress is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legislature, which means that it is divided up into two parts, or houses.

5) Senators represent the needs of an entire state, while members of the House represent parts of a state, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6) Every state has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senators.

7) A state’s number of representatives in the House of Representatives is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8) Representatives serve for terms of two years, and Senators serve for terms of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.

9) Congress can call for the impeachment, or removal, of the president if the president has committed “high crimes and misdemeanors;” this ability to limit the power of the executive branch is part of our system of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10) The Constitution lists between 17 and 35 powers that Congress has; these listed, or expressed, powers are also called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ powers.

11) The leader of the Senate is the Vice President, but when he is not present, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leads the Senate instead.

12) The leader of the House of Representatives is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

13) A rough draft or proposed law is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

14) In order for a bill to become a law, it must pass through both houses of Congress, and then the President can sign it or reject it. This rejection is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

15) All bills must begin in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or small group, before moving to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote by all of its members.

16) Congress is in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ branch.

**B. Making Comparisons.** Read the “Congress in a Flash” PDF, then decide whether each description is about only the House of Representatives, only the Senate, or applies to both houses of Congress. Write the letter of the statement in the correct part of the Venn diagram. The first one is done for you.

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| **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (4)** | **BOTH (3)** | **SENATE (4)** |
|  | A |  |

~~A. Members represent citizens.~~

B. Members represent an entire state.

C. There are 435 members of this chamber.

D. Approves presidential appointments.

E. Serve two-year terms.

F. Passes bills to the president to become laws.

G. There are 100 members of this chamber.

H. Can override a presidential veto with a 2/3 vote of support.

I. Must be at least 25 to serve in this chamber.

J. Led by the vice president of the U.S.

K. Leader is called the “speaker.”

**C. Analysis.** Think about the following questions. Then, in a sentence or two for each, give your responses based on what you’ve learned about Congress, separation of powers, and checks & balances.

1. Congress has a number of enumerated (listed) powers that give it many abilities and make it a powerful branch of government, but it cannot do things that are not on this list. Why do you think it might be important to have this limit on the powers of the legislative branch?

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2. The process for turning an idea into a bill and getting that bill passed into law is long and difficult, with many steps and many people reviewing the bill, offering suggestions and changes, and debating on it. This is by design. Why do you think that the Founding Fathers might have wanted to create such a long and complex process for making our nation’s laws?

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**D. Compromise!** Often, the House and Senate pass different versions of bills, or proposed laws; they must be made to match in order for that bill to become a law. The bills below are based on ideas found in real-life bills aimed at addressing the painkiller addiction crisis. Follow the directions to see where common ground might be found.

1. Read Both Bills. Highlight or underline the parts that the two versions have in common. Everything else is a difference that must be reconciled, or made to match. The first matching set has been done for you. See if you can find two others.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **House Bill to Combat Painkiller Addiction** | **Senate Bill to Combat Painkiller Addiction** |
| • Fund addiction treatment programs by taxing companies that make painkillers.  • Require training on specific topics for providers registered to prescribe painkillers.  • Limit prescriptions to a 10-day supply with no refills.  • Require doctors to clearly state the illness being treated with painkillers on the prescription. | • Impose a fee on people convicted of making or distributing painkillers illegally, used to fund addiction treatment programs.  • Require 12 hours of training for providers registered to prescribe painkillers.  • Limit prescriptions to a 7-day supply with two refills.  • Require doctors to prescribe a lesser strength, non-addictive painkiller first. |

2. Find a Solution. Decide on two compromises that could be made and write them below. This will be your compromise bill.

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| **Compromises to original bills:** |
| 1) |
| 2) |