

Name _____

Date: _____

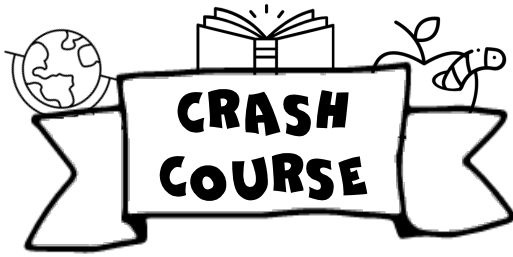
Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #18 LEGAL SYSTEM BASICS

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

statutes	Constitution	common	appeals	laws
state	federal	civil	bench	disputes

- ☐ 1. The first thing that courts do is settle _____.
- ☐ 2. The second thing the courts do is interpret the _____.
- ☐ 3. The first thing to remember about courts in the U.S. is that most legal action, if it occurs in court at all, occurs in _____ court.
- ☐ 4. The _____ courts are hierarchical, with the Supreme Court at the top and lower courts all the way down.
- ☐ 5. Legislatures both state and national make laws and these written laws are called _____.
- ☐ 6. The key to _____ law is the idea that a prior court decision sets a precedent that constrains future courts.
- ☐ 7. _____ trials have only a judge who determines the facts and the law.
- ☐ 8. _____ courts don't hear facts. They just decide questions of law so you don't have to bring witnesses or present evidence, just arguments.
- ☐ 9. _____ cases arise from disputes between individuals, or between individuals and the government, when one party, the plaintiff, claims that the other party, the defendant, has caused an injury that can be fixed or remedied.
- ☐ 10. The U.S. unlike most other nations has both statutory and common law, but most of the time when we're talking about federal laws we're in the realm of statutes, or maybe the _____.



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US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #18 LEGAL SYSTEM BASICS

Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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- ☐ 3. The first thing to remember about courts in the U.S. is that most legal action, if it occurs in court at all, occurs in _____ court.
- ☐ 4. The _____ courts are hierarchical, with the Supreme Court at the top and lower courts all the way down.
- ☐ 5. Legislatures both state and national make laws and these written laws are called _____.
- ☐ 6. The key to _____ law is the idea that a prior court decision sets a precedent that constrains future courts.
- ☐ 7. _____ trials have only a judge who determines the facts and the law.
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- ☐ 9. _____ cases arise from disputes between individuals, or between individuals and the government, when one party, the plaintiff, claims that the other party, the defendant, has caused an injury that can be fixed or remedied.
- ☐ 10. The U.S. unlike most other nations has both statutory and common law, but most of the time when we're talking about federal laws we're in the realm of statutes, or maybe the _____.



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Answer Key

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #18 LEGAL SYSTEM BASICS

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

statutes	Constitution	common	appeals	laws
state	federal	civil	bench	disputes

- ☐ 1. The first thing that courts do is settle disputes.
- ☐ 2. The second thing the courts do is interpret the laws.
- ☐ 3. The first thing to remember about courts in the U.S. is that most legal action, if it occurs in court at all, occurs in state court.
- ☐ 4. The federal courts are hierarchical, with the Supreme Court at the top and lower courts all the way down.
- ☐ 5. Legislatures both state and national make laws and these written laws are called statutes.
- ☐ 6. The key to common law is the idea that a prior court decision sets a precedent that constrains future courts.
- ☐ 7. Bench trials have only a judge who determines the facts and the law.
- ☐ 8. Appeals courts don't hear facts. They just decide questions of law so you don't have to bring witnesses or present evidence, just arguments.
- ☐ 9. Civil cases arise from disputes between individuals, or between individuals and the government, when one party, the plaintiff, claims that the other party, the defendant, has caused an injury that can be fixed or remedied.
- ☐ 10. The U.S. unlike most other nations has both statutory and common law, but most of the time when we're talking about federal laws we're in the realm of statutes, or maybe the Constitution.