The Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is one part of the U.S. government.

The legislative branch is also called Congress.

Congress makes federal laws.

There are two parts of Congress:
- Senate
- House of Representatives

Aerial view of the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.
The U.S. Senate

There are one hundred members in the U.S. Senate.

Each state has two U.S. Senators.

A Senator represents all of the people in one state.

If a state has a small population, like Hawaii, there are two U.S. Senators.

If a state has a large population, like New York, there are two U.S. Senators.

This way, every state has an equal vote in the Senate.

We elect U.S. Senators for six years.

Voting for your senator is an important right and responsibility.

Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now? ________________________
The U.S. House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives has 435 voting members.

The number of U.S. Representatives for each state depends on the population.

Some states have more representatives because they have more people.

If the state has a large population, there are more representatives.

For example, Texas has a large population.
In 2010, Texas had 32 representatives.

If the state has a small population, there are fewer representatives.

For example, Wyoming has a small population.
In 2010, Wyoming had one representative.

We elect U.S. Representatives for two years.

Voting for your representative is an important right and responsibility.

Name your U.S. Representative.

_________________________________________________________________

Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

_________________________________________________________________
More About the U.S. Congress

The Speaker of the House is in charge of the U.S. House of Representatives.

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? ____________________________

If the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, the Speaker of the House becomes President.

Review—The U.S. Congress

Read the sentences. Write the correct number in each sentence.

1. Congress has ________ parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

2. The U.S. House of Representatives has ________ voting members.

3. We elect a U.S. Representative for ________ years.

4. We elect a U.S. Senator for ________ years.

5. There are ________ U.S. Senators.

Participating in American Democracy

What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

1. ________________________________

2. ________________________________
Word Puzzle—U.S. Congress

Read the sentences. Write the words in the sentences. Fill in the letters for each word in the puzzle.

1. Congress meets in the ________________________ building.

2. Some states have more representatives because they have more ________________.

3. There are one _______________ Senators in the U.S. Senate.

4. There are three branches of ________________.

5. The House of ________________ has 435 voting members.

6. We ____________ Senators for six years.

7. The __________ is one part of Congress.

8. Congress makes federal ________________.

1. C __ __ __ __ __ __

2. __ __ O __ __ __

3. __ __ N __ __ __ __

4. G __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

5. __ __ __ R __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

6. __ __ E __ __

7. S __ __ __ __

8. __ __ __ S
Congress

Copy this word.

Congress
C________________
Co________________
Con________________
Cong________________
Congr________________
Congre________________
Congres________________
Congress________________

Copy the Civics Test question and answer.

Who makes federal laws? Congress.
W____ makes federal l_____? C__________.
____ ____ ______ ____? ____________.