



The Mini Page

Special Edition

Founded by Betty Debnam

Mini Fact:
No president has ever been removed through impeachment.

What Is Impeachment?

If you've been talking about the news surrounding our president with your family or in your classroom, you may be confused about what exactly is happening in Washington, D.C. This week, The Mini Page explores what **impeachment** means.

A solemn oath

Did you watch President Trump's inauguration in January 2017? At that big event, he and his vice president, Mike Pence, swore that they would follow the U.S. Constitution. The president's oath reads:



President Donald J. Trump

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

This oath means that the president has to do the best job he can while acting as president. He has to make sure that the government runs smoothly and the laws are obeyed.

Congress' responsibility

The Constitution says that if a president, vice president or other officer of the United States does not obey the rules of his or her job, he or she can be removed from the job by the Congress. But senators and representatives are very careful with this responsibility.

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Mini Fact:

Delegates at the Constitutional Convention laid out the procedures for removing a president.

How does it work?

First, the House of Representatives has to vote on one or more **articles of impeachment**. These are the particular charges of how the president has committed a crime against the United States.

If a majority of the House votes for impeachment, the process moves to the Senate. There, the chief justice of the Supreme Court serves as the judge, and the Senate serves as the **jury**. Some of the representatives from the House act as the lawyers for the United States, and the president has his own lawyer or team of lawyers.



Chief Justice John Roberts

After the hearings, the Senate votes. If there is greater than a two-thirds (at least 67) vote of guilty, the president is removed, and the vice president becomes president. If the president is removed, he may never serve in a government position again.

What happened?

On Sept. 24, 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced an **impeachment inquiry**. This means that several House committees will look into the president's actions and decide whether to draw up articles of impeachment and hold a vote.

The Congress is investigating whether the president worked with a foreign government to improve his chances to win the 2020 presidential election.

Impeachment history

Only two presidents have been impeached in U.S. history.

- President Andrew Johnson, the 17th president, was impeached in 1868 on 11 articles. However, only 35 senators voted "guilty" — one short of the 36 required at the time. Johnson remained in office.



President Andrew Johnson

- In 1999, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House. But again, the Senate voted to **acquitt** him, or declare him not guilty.



President Bill Clinton

- In 1974, the House brought three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. But before the House could begin its hearings, Nixon **resigned**, or quit, on Aug. 9, 1974. Vice President Gerald Ford became the 38th U.S. president.



President Richard Nixon

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPimpeach

At the library:

- "The Impeachment Process" by John Murphy

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of impeachment are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:



ARTICLES, CLINTON, CONGRESS, CONSTITUTION, IMPEACH, INQUIRY, INVESTIGATE, JOHNSON, JURY, NIXON, OATH, PRESIDENT, REMOVE, RESIGN, RESPONSIBILITY, SUPREME COURT.

M S U P R E M E C O U R T Z I
B A R T I C L E S K J Y R U J
S V Y U P R E S I D E N T W F
I N V E S T I G A T E X Y X C
Y T I L I B I S N O P S E R L
H C O N S T I T U T I O N Z I
I M P E A C H J O H N S O N N
U R E S I G N R O O A T H O T
E V O M E R Y R I U Q N I H O
N I X O N A C O N G R E S S N

Cook's Corner

Homemade Cornbread

You'll need:

- 1 1/2 cups biscuit baking mix
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup honey



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Combine baking mix, baking powder, cornmeal and sugar in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, milk, melted butter and honey until well-blended.
3. Add flour mixture gradually to wet mixture and stir only until combined. (Do not overstir.)
4. Lightly grease an 11-by-7-inch pan. Add cornbread mixture to pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until set.
5. Cut into 12 squares and serve warm with butter. Serves 6.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. person staying at your house (7) _____
2. it does your thinking (5) _____
3. yell (5) _____
4. video game with cubes (9) _____
5. long talk (7) _____
6. curiosity (8) _____
7. what bees make (5) _____

EST	MIN	EY	SHO
URE	VISI	HON	INT
AIN	AFT	LECT	TOR
ER	UT	BR	ECR

Answers: visitor, brain, shout, Minecraft, interest, honey.

Mini Jokes



- Dina:** What do you call a thieving alligator?
Danny: A crookodile!

Eco Note



Back-to-back blistering summers have melted the glacier atop a famed Swedish mountain peak so much that it is no longer the tallest in the land. The southern summit of the two-peaked Kebnekaise Mountain, just north of the Arctic Circle, has been so diminished by the melt that it is now 4 feet shorter than its northern twin.

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For later:

Talk in your classroom and with your family about the action taken by the U.S. Congress on Sept. 24. Discuss the reasons for Speaker Pelosi's actions. What are the pros and cons of starting an impeachment inquiry?

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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