



The Mini Page

Issue 36, 2022

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Our Charters
of Freedom



Back to Work

photo by Bryon & Olivia

The U.S. Congress returns to the Capitol on Sept. 6 after a summer break. This week, The Mini Page learns more about our legislative branch of government and the building they work in.



Branches of government

Our Constitution calls for three **branches**, or parts, of the government: the legislative, the executive and the judicial. The legislative branch is explained in Article I.

- The **legislative** (LEJ-uhs-LAY-tiv) branch makes the laws. This branch comprises the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.
- The **executive** (ex-ZEK-yuh-tiv) branch, headed by the president, carries out the laws.
- The **judicial** (ju-DISH-uhl) branch, headed by the Supreme Court, decides if the laws are lawful according to the Constitution.

Who's in the Congress?

The U.S. Constitution gives the power of making national laws to the U.S. Congress. Congress is made up of two **houses**, or groups, of lawmakers: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Mini Fact:

The Senate meets in the chamber on the left side of this photo of the Capitol's West Front.



photo courtesy NATO

When the House and Senate need to meet together, they join in the House chamber.

At the Capitol

The House of Representatives meets in the chamber on the south side of the Capitol. This is the largest room in the building. The representatives sit on benches and do not have assigned seats.



The Senate meets in a chamber on the north side of the Capitol. Each of the 100 senators has a special assigned seat. The Republicans sit on one side of the aisle and the Democrats on the other.



John Adams, our second president, spoke at the first meeting of both houses of Congress in the new Capitol on Nov. 22, 1800. At that time, only one of the wings had been built. By the time of Abraham Lincoln's presidency in the 1860s, the Capitol looked much as it does today.

Elections to Congress

The 435 members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms. They are chosen from 435 different districts across the country.

Every two years, they all must run for reelection if they want to stay in office.

The 100 senators serve six-year terms. They do not all run for reelection at the same time. One-third of the members run every two years.

This year, there are elections for senators in 34 states. Senators from the same state do not run at the same time.

The general election will take place on Nov. 8, 2022. We call it a **midterm election** because it happens midway between presidential elections.

Who can run?

A representative must be 25 years old and must have been a U.S. citizen for seven years. The number of representatives is based on the number of people in each state.

A senator must be 30 years old and must have been a U.S. citizen for nine years. There are two senators from each state.

The Senate and the House have programs for high school students to serve as pages, delivering materials to members, helping with roll call votes and doing other tasks for members.



photo courtesy U.S. Senate Page Program

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the legislative branch are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

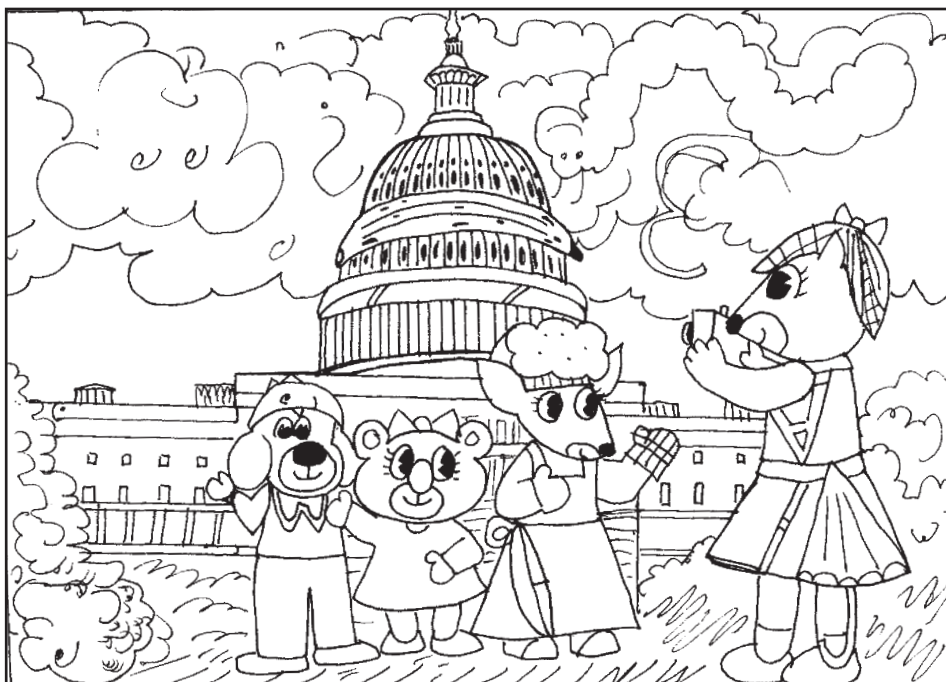


- ARTICLE, BRANCH,
- CHAMBER, CITIZEN,
- CONGRESS,
- CONSTITUTION,
- ELECTION, EXECUTIVE,
- HOUSE, JUDICIAL, LAWS,
- LEGISLATIVE, MEMBER,
- MIDTERM, PAGE, RUN,
- SENATE, SESSION, STATE.

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

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- caterpillar
- man in the moon
- book
- ladder
- sailboat
- word MINI
- question mark
- toothbrush
- man's head
- muffin
- letter W
- canoe
- dog's head
- letter A
- banana
- number 3
- umbrella
- ear of corn

Mini Jokes



Luis: What do you call a dinosaur who is elected to Congress?
Lara: Rep. Tile!

Eco Note



Cheetahs will soon roam the forests of central India for the first time in 70 years. The country's indigenous cats were declared extinct in 1952 after decades of hunting, habitat loss and food shortages led to their disappearance. But a long-awaited agreement with Namibia will see the world's fastest land animals transported from Africa to "cheetah-friendly" areas of Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh state.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the two houses of Congress and what they're working on.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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