

Reviewing Big Civics Ideas through Political Cartoons

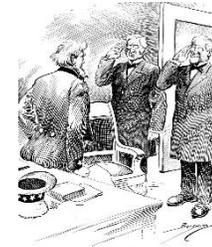
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Graphic Organizer 1 – Congress and the Constitution: Articles I and II of the Constitution Illustrated

Name: _____

The Constitution divides the Federal Government into three parts: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. While the Constitution established a plan for government, the effectiveness of government is the result of how the branches work with and in opposition to each other. Article I of the United States Constitution outlines the powers of the legislative branch of the government (Congress), and Article II outlines the powers of the executive branch (the Presidency). Each of the cartoons below refers to the constitutional powers of the branches, or their relationship to the people and each other.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



Summary of the description:			
Caption that best matches:			
How does the cartoon match the caption?			

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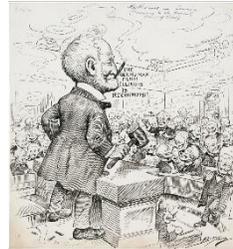
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Graphic Organizer 2 – Congress: The Elected, Representative Branch of Government

Name: _____

The Founders created Congress as the representative branch of government with a House of Representatives and Senate that represent the people in different ways. Article I of the Constitution establishes the House of Representatives and the Senate as distinct representative bodies with balanced responsibilities and the power to act together to create legislation. Each of the 435 House members represents a district, while each of 100 Senators represents a whole state. One of the important features of the design is that both houses of Congress must agree on any bill before it goes to the President.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



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Graphic Organizer 3 – Congress: Making Laws for the Nation

Name: _____

Making laws for the nation is the best-known duty of Congress. The legislative process in Congress is complex, but it allows every member of the House or Senate to introduce bills. A bill usually advances first to a committee that researches, debates, and amends the bill before reporting a successful bill to the full body for debate, further amending, and votes. Only a small fraction of bills introduced in any Congress become law. The process of lawmaking incorporates many points of view on any topic being considered.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



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Graphic Organizer 4 – Congress and the President: Balancing Articles I and II of the Constitution

Name: _____

The Founders separated the legislative and executive power into two different branches of government and created balances between them. Article I of the Constitution outlines the powers of Congress, and Article II outlines those of the President. In most cases, the powers described in the two articles are complementary and result in shared authority.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



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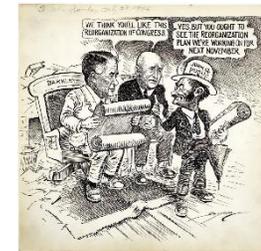
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Graphic Organizer 5 – Political Parties: Play a Leading Role in Congress

Name: _____

Political parties play a crucial role in shaping how Congress works. The House of Representatives is controlled by the party holding the majority of seats. The Senate has a more complicated structure wherein the majority party sets the schedule, but the minority party can exercise great influence over the pace of events and can prevent many issues from coming to a vote.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



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Graphic Organizer 6 – A Member’s Job: Representing the People and the States

Name: _____

Each Member of the House and each Senator represents a group of constituents, makes laws for the nation, and participates in fulfilling specific constitutional duties of the House or Senate. House Members represent, and are accountable to, the constituents of one of the 435 districts spread across the 50 states, while each Senator represents a whole state. Each election represents an opportunity for voters to evaluate the work of their Representative or Senator.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



Summary of the description:			
Caption that best matches:			
How does the cartoon match the caption?			