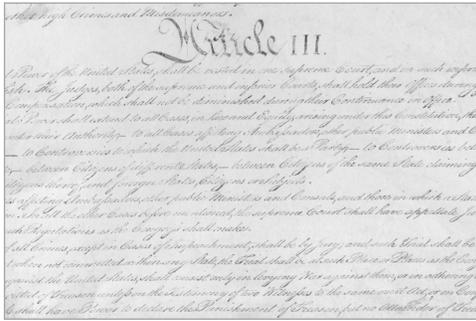


WQ: Courts in a Nutshell

Name: _____

Instructions: Use this worksheet to collect your answers from the WebQuest. NOTE: There may be questions on this worksheet that are not online.



Slide 1: A Court is Born

According to the Constitution, who has the power to create federal courts that are below the Supreme Court?

Slide 2: Authority of the Courts

1. List one type of case that federal courts have jurisdiction over, one type that state courts have jurisdiction over, and one type that BOTH court systems can hear.

Federal: _____

State: _____

Both: _____

2. For each problem, mark which system of courts has jurisdiction.

Help! I need a court!	Jurisdiction		
	State	Fed	Both
Someone is polluting the environment!			
Someone violated my book's copyright!			
Someone ran into me with a car! Ouch!			
Someone wants custody of my child!			
A citizen from another state sued me!			

Slide 3: State Court Systems

1. List the different courts in your state.

2. Look at the list of courts in your state again. Decide which one is the highest court and click the link to that court's website. On the site, look for a description of the court or the judges.

Name of my state's highest court:

Number of judges on that court:

What are the judges called? ("Judges" or something else?)

WQ: Courts in a Nutshell

Name: _____

Slide 4: Federal District Courts

1. How are the districts inside a state named?
2. Is your state divided into districts? Yes No
3. Complete this sentence:

I live in the _____

District of _____.

(If your state isn't divided into regions, you won't put anything in that first blank.)

Slide 5: Federal Courts of Appeals

Which circuit do you live in? *(Hint: Nobody lives in the Federal Circuit.)*

I live in the _____ Circuit.



Slide 6: The Highest Court in the Land

1. Use the website to answer these questions:

Who is the current Chief Justice?	
Who has been on the court the longest?	
What year did that justice take his/her seat?	
Who is the newest justice?	
What year did he/she join the court? <i>For this, IGNORE any justices that have (Retired) by their names.</i>	

2. Complete the following information for three Supreme Court justices. Assume they sat on the Court of Appeals until the year they were appointed to the Supreme Court.

Justice _____ served on the _____ Circuit Court of Appeals for _____ years.

Justice _____ served on the _____ Circuit Court of Appeals for _____ years.

Justice _____ served on the _____ Circuit Court of Appeals for _____ years.



3. Did any of the justices serve on the Court of Appeals in YOUR circuit?

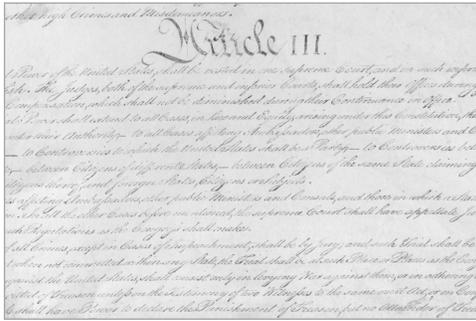
No. I'm in the _____ circuit, and none served there.

Yes. Justice _____ served in the _____ circuit.

WQ: Courts in a Nutshell

Name: **** TEACHER GUIDE ****

Instructions: Use this worksheet to collect your answers from the WebQuest. NOTE: There may be questions on this worksheet that are not online.



Slide 1: A Court is Born

According to the Constitution, who has the power to create federal courts that are below the Supreme Court?

Congress

Slide 2: Authority of the Courts

1. List one type of case that federal courts have jurisdiction over, one type that state courts have jurisdiction over, and one type that BOTH court systems can hear.

Federal: _____

State: _____

Both: _____

Answers will vary. Find the complete list at <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-informed/federal-court-basics/cases-federal-state-courts.aspx>

2. For each problem, mark which system of courts has jurisdiction.

Help! I need a court!	Jurisdiction		
	State	Fed	Both
Someone is polluting the environment!			X
Someone violated my book's copyright!		X	
Someone ran into me with a car! Ouch!	X		
Someone wants custody of my child!	X		
A citizen from another state sued me!		X	

Slide 3: State Court Systems

1. List the different courts in your state.

Answers depend on your state. The link students followed is <http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/statecourtmap.html>

2. Look at the list of courts in your state again. Decide which one is the highest court and click the link to that court's website. On the site, look for a description of the court or the judges.

Name of my state's highest court:

_____ *Answers depend on your state.*

Number of judges on that court:

_____ *Answers depend on your state.*

What are the judges called? ("Judges" or something else?)

_____ *Answers depend on your state.*

WQ: Courts in a Nutshell

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

Slide 4: Federal District Courts

1. How are the districts inside a state named?
2. Is your state divided into districts? Yes No
3. Complete this sentence:

I live in the _____
District of _____.

Answers depend on your state. The link students followed is <http://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/federal-courts-public/court-website-links>

Includes answers for Slide 5.

Slide 5: Federal Courts of Appeals

Which circuit do you live in? (*Hint: Nobody lives in the Federal Circuit.*)

I live in the _____ Circuit.

See webquest link for answer.



Slide 6: The Highest Court in the Land

1. Use the website to answer these questions:

Who is the current Chief Justice?	<i>John Roberts, Jr.</i>
Who has been on the court the longest?	<i>Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice</i>
What year did that justice take his/her seat?	<i>September 26, 1986</i>
Who is the newest justice?	<i>Elena Kagan, Associate Justice</i>
What year did he/she join the court? <i>For this, IGNORE any justices that have (Retired) by their names.</i>	<i>August 7, 2010</i>

2. Complete the following information for three Supreme Court justices. Assume they sat on the Court of Appeals until the year they were appointed to the Supreme Court.

Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. served on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals for 2 years.
Justice Antonin Scalia served on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals for 4 years.
Justice Anthony M. Kennedy served on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for 13 years.
Justice Clarence Thomas served on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals for 1 year.
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg served on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals for 13 years.
Justice Stephen G. Breyer served on the N/A Circuit Court of Appeals for N/A years.
Justice Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr. served on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals for 16 years.
Justice Sonia Sotomayor served on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for 11 years.
Justice Elena Kagan served on the N/A Circuit Court of Appeals for N/A years.



3. Did any of the justices serve on the Court of Appeals in YOUR circuit?

- No. I'm in the _____ circuit, and none served there.
- Yes. Justice _____ served in the _____ circuit.

Answer depends on your state. See <http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx>