

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The activities in this unit are designed to help your students understand the Judicial Branch of the federal government. Each activity can be used independently so you may choose those which fit your lesson plans and time schedule as well as your students' interests and abilities.

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Type of Skills Used in the Activities</u>				<u>Page</u>
	Reading	Research	Writing	Design Reasoning	
Group 1: Structure, Powers, and Duties					
Organizational Chart.....	x	x		x	1
Checks and Balances	x	x		x	2
Justice Martha Rice.....	x	x		x	3
How The Supreme Court Works	x	x		x	4
The Washington Times	x	x		x	5
Group 2: The Judicial Review					
Election of Judges	x	x	x	x	6
The Death Penalty	x	x	x	x	7
Mandatory Retirement For Judges.....	x	x	x	x	8
Affirmative Action	x	x	x	x	9
Tobacco.....	x	x	x	x	10
Group 3: You Be The Judge					
Famous Cases.....	x	x		x	11-12
Who Was Correct?	x	x	x	x	13-14
New Jersey v T.L.O.....	x	x	x	x	15
United States v Banks.....	x	x	x	x	16
Locke v Davey	x	x	x	x	17
Iowa v Tovar	x	x	x	x	18
Hamdi v Rumsfeld	x	x	x	x	19
Pennsylvania State Police v Suders	x	x	x	x	20
Thorton v United States	x	x	x	x	21
Elk Grove School Dist. v Newdow.....	x	x	x	x	22
Hibel v Sixth Judicial District Court....	x	x	x	x	23
United States v Flores-Montano	x	x	x	x	24
Group 4: Trivia					
Fact or Fiction	x	x		x	25
Who Said It.....	x	x		x	26
Trivia Challenge.....	x	x		x	27-40
Game Boards and Instructions.....					27-28
Number Cards.....					29
Question Cards					30-40

Martha Rice is the newest justice on the Supreme Court.

Place a T (True) or F (False) in front of each statement concerning her nomination and service on the high court.



1. _____ Justice Rice was nominated by the President.
2. _____ The Constitution requires that she be 35 years of age to be nominated.
3. _____ She will join eleven other justices on the high court.
4. _____ Her nomination was confirmed by the Senate.
5. _____ She will serve on the court for a term of six years.
6. _____ The Constitution requires that she be a natural born citizen to be nominated.
7. _____ She can be impeached by the House of Representatives.
8. _____ If the President is impeached, she and the other justices will serve as judges for the impeachment trial.
9. _____ She can serve on the high court for life.
10. _____ If a justice dies while serving on the court, she and the other justices will nominate a new justice.
11. _____ To become Chief Justice, she must have the most seniority on the high court.
12. _____ To be nominated to the Supreme Court, she must have served on a lower federal court.
13. _____ She can be impeached by the Senate.
14. _____ She and her fellow justices will have original jurisdiction in cases in which a state is involved.
15. _____ She is the first woman to serve on the high court.
16. _____ Most of the cases she will hear are appeals of decisions from other courts.
17. _____ Since she is now serving as an associate justice, she can never become Chief Justice.
18. _____ The Chief Justice is chosen each year by the current justices.
19. _____ If she disagrees with the majority on a case, she can write a dissenting opinion.
20. _____ If she agrees with the majority on a case, but not with the reasoning, she can write a concurring opinion.
21. _____ If she disagrees with the majority opinion, she can explain her position in a brief.
22. _____ The Constitution requires that she have a law degree to serve on the Supreme Court.
23. _____ As a justice, she is required to form her opinion on a case in private. Justices only meet to vote.
24. _____ As a justice, she will review all federal legislation to determine if it is Constitutional.
25. _____ As a justice, she can have no party affiliation or vote in federal elections.

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1. Place an X through each headline that would not be true of the Judicial Branch.

<p>The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case on appeal from the Virginia Supreme Court because a Constitutional question is involved.</p>	<p>Lazaro Sifuentos Given Federal Judgeship</p> <p>Judge Sifuentos has been appointed to the 87th District for a term of 4 years.</p>	<p>Chief Justice Charles North Resigns</p> <p>The Chief Justice's resignation was not unexpected. He has been in ill health and this will give the President the opportunity to make his second appointment to the high court.</p>	
<p>President Cartwright Nominates Charles Tanney as the New Chief Justice.</p> <p>Confirmation hearings are expected to begin in the House of Representatives next week. Liberals are expected to oppose the nomination.</p>	<p>Conservative groups are campaigning against the re-election of two liberal Supreme Court Justices</p>	<p>President Cartwright Impeached</p> <p>Chief Justice Charles Tanney will preside over President Cartwright's impeachment trial in the Senate. The trial is scheduled to begin next week. However, several senators have questioned the Chief Justice's impartiality since he was appointed to the bench by the President.</p>	
<p>Supreme Court to Settle Border Dispute</p> <p>Most cases heard by the Supreme Court are on appeal from lower courts. But since a state is involved, the court will have original jurisdiction to settle the border dispute in Colorado v Nebraska</p>	<p>Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Clark v Western Trust Company</p>	<p>Six new district attorneys are appointed to four year terms by the President and approved by the Senate.</p>	<p>Sharon Anderson Appointed Chief Judge of the 22nd Circuit Court of Appeals</p>
<p>Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>In order to increase the number of federal district courts, the President has proposed a Constitutional amendment allowing new courts to be added when needed.</p>	<p>Controversy on the High Court</p> <p>Along with the majority opinion in Carroll County v Illinois, the controversial decision has provoked two concurring and three dissenting opinion.</p>		<p>Supreme Court Warns Against School Prayer Legislation</p> <p>In a recent interview on CNN, the Chief Justice made it clear that the Supreme Court is prepared to strike down legislation recently passed by Congress legalizing prayer in public schools if the President signs the bill rather than vetoing it.</p>

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Certain Supreme Court cases and the resulting decisions stand out as benchmarks throughout our history. Listed below are the names and dates of several famous cases. Place the name of each case above the key legal principle resulting from the Court's decision.

Marbury v Madison (1803)
 McCulloch v Maryland (1819)
 Plessy v Ferguson (1896)
 Debs v United States (1918)
 Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)
 Gideon v Wainwright (1963)
 Miranda v Arizona (1966)
 Tinker v Des Moines Ind. Community School District (1969)
 Roe v Wade (1973)
 United States v Nixon (1974)
 Bakke v The Regents of the University of California (1978)
 Texas v Johnson (1989)



1. _____

The Sixth Amendment's guarantee of counsel was a fundamental right, essential to a fair trial, which should be made applicable to the states through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Justice Black called it an "obvious truth" that a fair trial for a poor defendant could not be guaranteed without the assistance of counsel.

2. _____

Separate but equal is inherently unequal in the context of public education.

3. _____

The Court held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.

4. _____

When the Constitution conflicts with an act of the legislature, that act is invalid. This case established the Supreme Court's power of judicial review.

5. _____

The wearing of armbands was "closely akin to pure speech" and protected by the First Amendment. School environments imply limitations on free expression, but here the principals lacked justification for imposing any such limits. The principals had failed to show that the forbidden conduct would substantially interfere with appropriate school discipline.

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