

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

Capital Cities of North America - Map



From: www.cia.gov

Draw a line from each capital name below to the correct location on the map.

Ottawa, Canada	San Salvador, El Salvador
Nuuk, Greenland	Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Washington, D.C., United States	Managua, Nicaragua
Mexico City, Mexico	San Jose, Costa Rica
Guatemala City, Guatemala	Panama City, Panama
Belmopan, Belize	Havana, Cuba

Name: _____ Date: _____

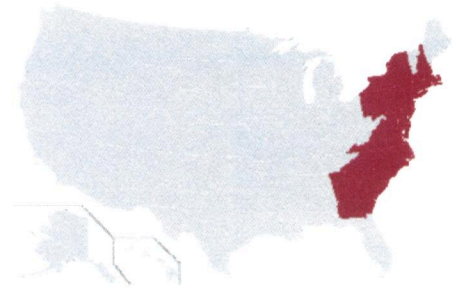
Capital Cities of North America – Chart

Complete the following chart for each country in North America.

Country	Capital City	Capital City Population
Canada		
Greenland		
United States		
Mexico		
Guatemala		
Belize		
El Salvador		
Honduras		
Nicaragua		
Costa Rica		
Panama		
Cuba		

Why Were There Thirteen Colonies in America?

When you study early American history you learn a great deal about the thirteen original colonies along the Atlantic Coast of North America: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The list of colonies is in geographical order from north to south and not in the order that they were founded.



No one set out with a plan in the 1600 or 1700s to create thirteen colonies that came together as a new nation. Explorers from different countries in Europe sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in various places along the seacoast and claimed that land for their country. For example, Dutch explorer Henry Hudson sailed to the North American continent in 1609 and discovered the Hudson River in what is now New York State. His trip was financed by the Dutch East India Company. In 1621 they created a settlement called New Amsterdam and named their colony New Netherlands.

When Henry Hudson was first exploring the area of present-day New York, British colonists organized by the Virginia Company of London had already established the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony in 1607. The colonists were originally looking for gold. Massachusetts received its first European settlers when the Pilgrims arrived there in 1620 after being blown off course on their journey to Virginia.

Each of the thirteen colonies has its own story of how and why it was founded. The land for most of the colonies was granted to a company or individual by the King of England. The company or individual then organized people who moved to North America and settled in the colony. Some colonies were organized for religious freedom and others were money-making ventures.

During the 1600s Great Britain seized the colony of New Amsterdam by force and renamed it New York. Great Britain also seized the colony of Delaware, another colony not founded by English subjects. All thirteen colonies were then united under the British flag and were part of the British Empire.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Were There Thirteen Colonies in America?

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The thirteen original colonies are near the
 - a. Atlantic Coast of North America
 - b. Pacific Coast of North America
 - c. Mississippi River
 - d. The Hudson River
2. Which of the following states was NOT one of the thirteen original colonies?
 - a. Virginia
 - b. West Virginia
 - c. Massachusetts
 - d. Connecticut
3. Jamestown was a settlement in which colony?
 - a. Massachusetts
 - b. Delaware
 - c. Virginia
 - d. Pennsylvania
4. The New York colony was originally called
 - a. New London
 - b. New Amsterdam
 - c. New Netherlands
 - d. New France
5. Some of the colonies were established
 - a. For religious freedom
 - b. As money-making ventures
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above
6. The thirteen colonies all eventually came under the control of
 - a. Great Britain
 - b. Netherlands
 - c. France
 - d. Spain

The U.S. Senate

The U.S. Congress is composed of two legislative (law-making) groups: the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are many terms used to describe the two parts of Congress. Sometimes they are called chambers, legislative bodies or houses. The Senate is often called the upper chamber of Congress and the House of Representatives is called the lower chamber. Under the Constitution of the United States that defines how the government should work, the Senate and House of Representatives have different responsibilities while they share the major task of making laws for the United States.



There are two Senators from each state. In the early days of the country Senators were appointed by the state legislature and they serve for six year terms. Now Senators are elected by the voters of their state. After their first term Senators can run for re-election. Some Senators are so popular in their states that serve for twenty years or more in the Senate.

Congress writes laws as bills or acts. Bill or act is the name given to the written document that contains all the rules and regulations of a particular law. Bills and acts can be hundreds of pages long and very complicated. The Constitution says that the Senate's job is to discuss all bills and give advice about the merits of the bill. While this is also done in the House of Representatives, the Senate's job is to make sure that bills aren't passed too quickly without careful thought about what the law will say and how it affects the citizens. Senators debate and discuss legislation before it is passed. The Senate also holds hearings where the Senators get information from expert witnesses or other people affected by the proposed bill. The Senate also holds hearings when the Senators believe that they need to investigate something, for example, environmental issues or banking problems.

Under the checks and balances of the Constitution the Senate is allowed to impeach the President or other federal officials. Impeach means the Senate has a trial to determine if the official has broken any laws. The Senate ratifies (approves) any treaties made with foreign countries. The Senate must also approve the appointment of high ranking government officials like the Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the president's cabinet and ambassadors.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The U.S. Senate Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. As part of the U.S. Congress the Senate is sometimes called
 - a. The upper chamber
 - b. The lower chamber
 - c. The upper legislature
 - d. The lower legislature
2. How do Senators get their office?
 - a. They are appointed by state officials
 - b. They are appointed by other Senators
 - c. They are elected by other Senators
 - d. They are elected by the voters of their state
3. When Congress writes laws they are called
 - a. Bills
 - b. Acts
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above
4. When Senators want more information about something they hold a
 - a. Bill
 - b. Act
 - c. Trial
 - d. Hearing
5. When Senators impeach a federal official they hold a
 - a. Bill
 - b. Act
 - c. Trial
 - d. Hearing
6. The Senate approves the appointment of
 - a. Justices of the Supreme Court
 - b. Members of the president's cabinet
 - c. Ambassadors
 - d. All of the above

The Role of the U.S. Congress

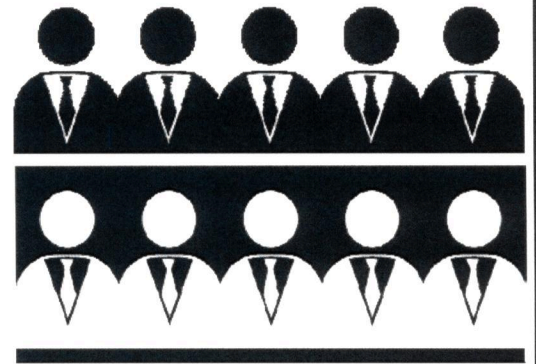
In the United States we have a democratic government that is composed of three branches: the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the Legislative Branch. The President and Vice President make up the Executive Branch; the Supreme Court is the Judicial Branch; and the Legislative Branch is composed of the U.S. Congress. Legislative means that the Congress has the power to legislate, that is, make laws for the country.

When the U.S. government was first defined by the U.S. Constitution, which was written in 1787, the authors of the document wanted checks and balances in the new government. Each of the three branches has power to keep the leaders of the other two branches from seizing more power in the government than the Constitution allows. One important role of the Congress is to make sure that the President and the Supreme Court perform their duties.

The Congress makes laws at the federal level, laws that affect everyone in the country. States also enact laws that affect just the citizens of that state. Under the Constitution the President cannot create a new law or change existing laws. Only the Congress has that power.

The U.S. Congress has two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate. All members of Congress are elected by the people of the state they represent. Every state has two Senators but the number of Representative it has depends on the state's population. Larger states have more Representatives. Senators serve for six years and Representatives serve for just two years. For a law to be enacted it has to be passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and be approved by the President. Should the President veto a law, Congress can override the veto if two-thirds of the members vote to do so.

Congress has a long list of duties. An important duty is to handle the country's finances. Congress creates the budget that says how much money goes to each department of the government, like for roads and National Parks. Congress also controls how taxes are levied to pay for everything. Congress is responsible for maintaining the U.S. military and is the only part of the government that can declare war on another country. Other duties include regulating dealings among businesses in different states and other countries.



Name: _____ Date: _____

The Role of the U.S. Congress

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The U.S. Congress is in which branch of the government?
 - a. Executive
 - b. Judicial
 - c. Legislative
 - d. All of the above

2. Checks and balances affect which branch of the government?
 - a. Executive
 - b. Judicial
 - c. Legislative
 - d. All of the above

3. Congress makes laws at what level?
 - a. Federal
 - b. State
 - c. County
 - d. City

4. How many Senators does each state have?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Based on population of the state

5. The income tax rate citizens pay to the federal government is determined by
 - a. The Supreme Court
 - b. Only the Senate
 - c. Only the House of Representatives
 - d. The Congress

6. Which of the following is controlled by Congress?
 - a. Declaring war
 - b. The federal budget
 - c. Maintaining the military
 - d. All of the above