

THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM STUDENT WORKSHEET

For use with the "Federal Court System" section of the Compton's article "United States Government."

PART ONE

For each year in the chart, list what event or change took place in regard to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Year	Event or Change
1787	
1789 - 1790	
1807	
1837	
1863	
1869	

Mark the following statements either true (T) or false (F).

- _____ The Supreme Court is the highest judicial tribunal in the United States and the court of final appeal.
- _____ The two types of jurisdiction in the Supreme Court are appellate and certiorari.
- _____ Most cases go to the Supreme Court for review from lower federal and state courts.
- _____ A minimum of six justices must be present when a case is argued before the Supreme Court.
- _____ There are currently 10 circuit courts of federal appeal in the United States.
- _____ Each state has only one district court.

PART TWO

Match up the following figures and terms having to do with the U.S. judicial branch with the best definition.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ Court of International Trade | A. writing that gives the Supreme Court's ruling on a case and the reasoning behind the ruling |
| 2. _____ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. | B. reviews court-martial proceedings |
| 3. _____ Judiciary Act | C. lower-court decisions that the Supreme Court chooses to review at its own discretion |
| 4. _____ opinion of the Court | D. structured the first Supreme Court in 1789 |
| 5. _____ appellate jurisdiction | E. deals with governmental money judgments, contract obligations, and copyright infringements |
| 6. _____ certiorari cases | F. proposed adding six new justices to the Supreme Court |
| 7. _____ Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes | G. authority to rule on the constitutionality of laws |
| 8. _____ Abe Fortas | H. refers to cases tried directly before the Supreme Court—without involving lower courts |
| 9. _____ Court of Federal Claims | I. the only Supreme Court justice ever impeached |
| 10. _____ John Jay | J. Supreme Court justice who resigned under pressure |
| 11. _____ Samuel Chase | K. writing by a Supreme Court justice who disagrees with the majority opinion |
| 12. _____ judicial review | L. rules on claims against the government on import transactions |
| 13. _____ Franklin D. Roosevelt | M. the power to review decisions made by lower courts |
| 14. _____ Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces | N. said "We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is" |
| 15. _____ original jurisdiction | O. known as "the great dissenter" |
| 16. _____ dissenting opinion | P. the first chief justice of the Supreme Court |

PART THREE

From the following list of past and present Supreme Court justices and chief justices, pick one to research further in Compton's. Look up his or her entry and answer as many of the following questions as you can.

Brennan, William Joseph, Jr.
Breyer, Stephen
Cardozo, Benjamin
Douglas, William O.
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr.
Hughes, Charles Evans
Jay, John
Kennedy, Anthony

Marshall, John
Marshall, Thurgood
O'Connor, Sandra Day
Taft, William Howard
Taney, Roger B.
Thomas, Clarence
Warren, Earl
White, Byron Raymond

Name of justice _____

Year of birth and year of death (if applicable)

Place of birth and/or childhood

Years on the U.S. Supreme Court: from _____ to (if applicable) _____

Number of years as chief justice, if applicable _____

What president appointed him or her to the Supreme Court?

What president appointed him or her to chief justice, if applicable?

What was his or her educational background? What schools did he or she attend?

What jobs or other judicial appointments did his or her career include before being appointed to the Supreme Court?

If not a chief justice, under which chief justice(s) did this person serve?

What were some of the important decisions passed down by the Supreme Court during this justice's time of service?

What characterized this justice's voting record? Conservative? Moderate? Liberal? Swing vote?

What else was interesting about this justice?
