

Name _____

Judicial Branch Briefly - 2018

Use the student-friendly version of Article 3 of the US Constitution to answer the following questions. Find your answers in the Constitution...do not guess. If you don't have your student-friendly version with you, you can use the real Constitution, of course.

1. Which Article of the US Constitution tells about the Judicial Branch? _____

2. What is the main *purpose* of the Judicial Branch?

- a. to make laws
- b. to carry out the laws
- c. to interpret the laws
- d. to be on a jury



3. What does it mean to “interpret the law?” If needed, look up the word *interpret* in a dictionary or online. (Restate the question and answer in a complete sentence.)

4. Tell how a Supreme Court justice gets his/her job by completing the sentence below. You will fill in the blanks with the correct synonym as described in below each line.

(Hint: Look back in Article 2, Section 2 for the answer. Or look at your worksheet titled *Executive Branch Briefly*, question #12.)

A Supreme Court Justice gets his/her job on the court by being _____
(synonym for *chosen* or *picked*)

by the _____, with the _____
(title of the head of the executive branch) (synonym for *agreement* or *acceptance*)

of the _____.
(part of Congress with 100 members)

5. What is **jurisdiction**? Look in Article 3, Section 2 for the answer. (Restate the question and answer in a complete sentence.)

6. Look at **Article 3, Section 2, Clause 1. Types of Cases...** After reading through the kinds of cases the Supreme Court can hear, look at the list below.

If you think the Supreme Court would hear the case on the list, put **YES** on the blank. If you think the Supreme Court would not hear the case, put **NO** on the blank.

For example:

Yes a disagreement about Native American land rights

...because one of the types of cases listed in Article 3, Section 2 is:

- *Treaties with Indians or foreign powers*

- _____ a disagreement about Atlantic trading laws
- _____ a disagreement about the fairness of a state test in order to graduate from high school
- _____ a disagreement about allowing a woman into a U.S. military school
- _____ a disagreement about a new law passed by Congress
- _____ a disagreement about moose hunting laws in Maine
- _____ a disagreement about whether or not someone is guilty of stealing drugs from a drug store

Answer questions #9 and #10 to deepen your thinking about Article 3. This part is a bit challenging so put on your thinking cap!

9. What is the title of Article 3, Section 3? _____ Read the definition in the first sentence.



Article 3, Section 3, Clause 1 says:
“Talking or thinking about treason is not a crime.”
 This clause was written into the original Constitution (1787) BEFORE the Bill of Rights was added (1791). It was there to protect one of the freedoms that eventually was protected anyway by the Bill of Rights.

“Talking or thinking about treason is not a crime.”

Which freedom does this phrase protect? Freedom of _____

10. Now read Article 3, Section 3, Clause 2. What do you think is most interesting about **Article 3, Section 3, Clause 2** and why? (Complete the sentences below.)

I think the most interesting part of Article 3, Section 3, Clause 2 is _____
 _____. It is interesting because _____
 _____.