

Junior Grange

Our Government: How a Law Gets Made

Junior Granger Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____



Associated with The United States Passport #66

The Three Branches of Government

Draw a line to match each branch of government with what it does:

Legislative Branch	Enforces the laws
Executive Branch	Makes the laws
Judicial Branch	Decides if laws follow the Constitution

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Number these steps in the correct order (1-8):

- ___ The bill is signed by the President and becomes a law
- ___ The bill is introduced in the House or Senate
- ___ The bill is voted on by the House of Representatives
- ___ Both the House and Senate must agree on the same version of the bill
- ___ The bill goes to the President
- ___ The bill is debated in committee
- ___ The bill is voted on by the Senate
- ___ If the President vetoes the bill, Congress can override with a 2/3 vote

Junior Grange

Our Government: How a Law Gets Made

Fill in the Blanks

A proposed law is called a _____.

The _____ Branch makes the laws.

The two parts of Congress are the _____ and the _____.

The President can either _____ a bill or _____ it.

Laws that are found to be against the Constitution are declared _____.

Show What You Know

Draw a simple picture showing how an idea becomes a law. Label at least 3 steps in your drawing.

What Would You Do?

If you could make one law to help your community, what would it be? Why do you think this law would help people?

Junior Grange

Our Government: How a Law Gets Made

Think About It

What might happen if we didn't have a process for making laws? Why is it important that both the House and Senate agree on a bill?

Answer Key & Resources for Junior Leaders

Worksheet Answer Key

The Three Branches of Government (Matching)

- Legislative Branch → Makes the laws
- Executive Branch → Enforces the laws
- Judicial Branch → Decides if laws follow the Constitution

How a Bill Becomes a Law (Correct Order 1-8)

1. The bill is introduced in the House or Senate
2. The bill is debated in committee
3. The bill is voted on by the House of Representatives
4. The bill is voted on by the Senate
5. Both the House and Senate must agree on the same version of the bill
6. The bill goes to the President
7. The bill is signed by the President and becomes a law
8. If the President vetoes the bill, Congress can override with a 2/3 vote

Fill in the Blanks

1. A proposed law is called a **bill**.
2. The **Legislative** Branch makes the laws.
3. The two parts of Congress are the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**.
4. The President can either **sign** a bill or **veto** it.
5. Laws that are found to be against the Constitution are declared **unconstitutional**.

Junior Grange

Our Government: How a Law Gets Made

Resources for Junior Grangers

Below are suggestions for age-appropriate resources where Junior Grangers can find information to complete the passport activities and worksheet:

Websites

- **Kids.gov** - Official kids' portal for the U.S. government with information about how government works
- **Congress.gov/legislative-process** - Simple explanations of how a bill becomes law
- **Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government** (bensguide.gpo.gov) - Grade-appropriate information about government
- **iCivics.org** - Interactive games and activities about government and lawmaking

Videos

- "I'm Just a Bill" (Schoolhouse Rock) - Classic educational video explaining the legislative process
- "How a Bill Becomes a Law" (PBS Kids) - Short video with simple explanations
- "How Does Government Work?" (BrainPOP) - Animated explanations of government functions

Books

- "How the U.S. Government Works" by Syl Sobel
- "If I Were President" by Catherine Stier
- "House Mouse, Senate Mouse" by Peter W. Barnes
- "How Does a Bill Become a Law?" by Judy Maupin

Local Resources

- Arrange visits to local government offices
- Invite local representatives to speak at Grange meetings
- Contact your state's legislative information office for free educational materials

Suggested Learning Activities

1. **Role Play Activity:** Have Junior Grangers act out the process of a bill becoming a law, with different children playing different roles (representative, senator, president, etc.).
2. **Mock Congress:** Let Juniors propose "laws" for their Grange and take them through a simplified version of the legislative process.
3. **Bill Tracking:** Choose a real bill currently in Congress (pick something relevant to agriculture or rural communities) and track its progress with the Juniors.
4. **Create Visual Aids:** Have Juniors create posters showing the three branches of government and what each one does.

Research Project: For older Juniors, assign a research project on a famous lawmaker or important law that affected agricultural communities.