



Government Structures, Powers, Functions, and Interactions

Instructional Slides



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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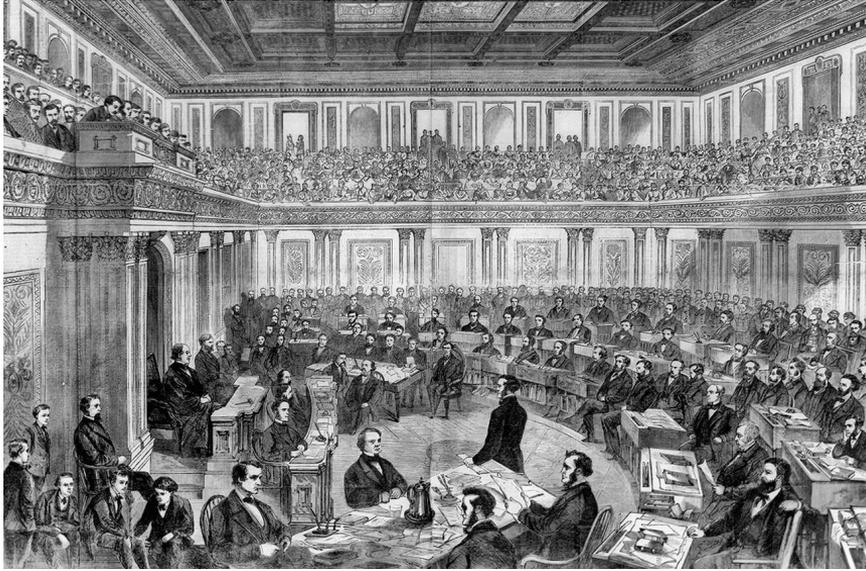
Topic 2: Structures, Powers, and Functions of the U.S. Government



Framing Question: What are the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the federal government?



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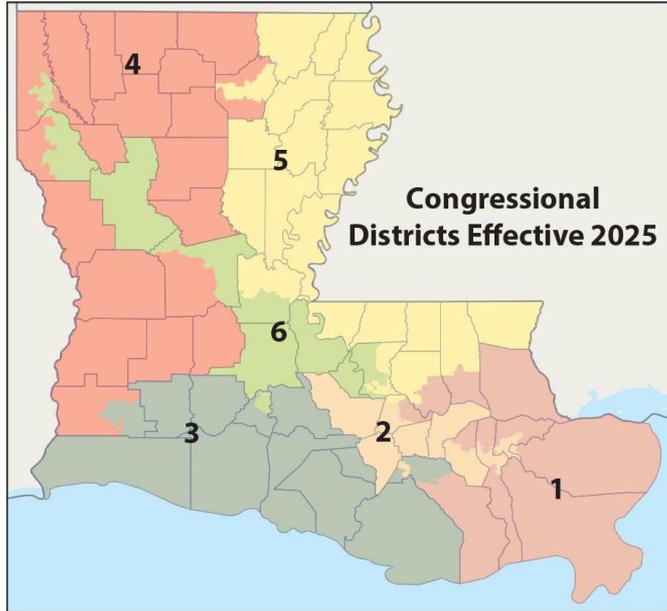


In 1868, Andrew Johnson became the first president to be impeached by the House of Representatives, many members of which were frustrated by the president's use of veto power.



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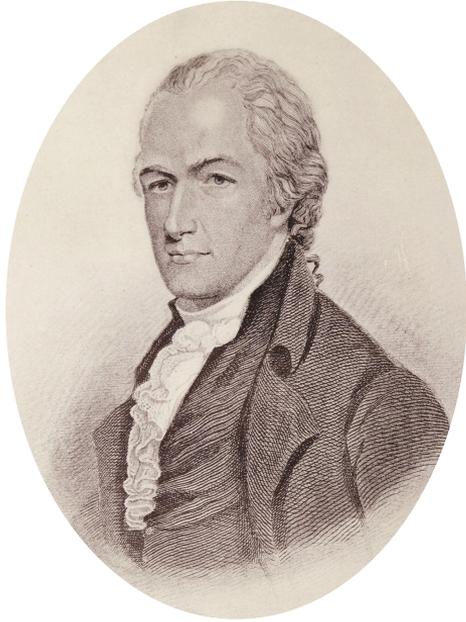
Louisiana Congressional Districts



Louisiana has six congressional districts. States determine whether they need to redraw district maps following the U.S. Census every ten years, in a process called reapportionment.



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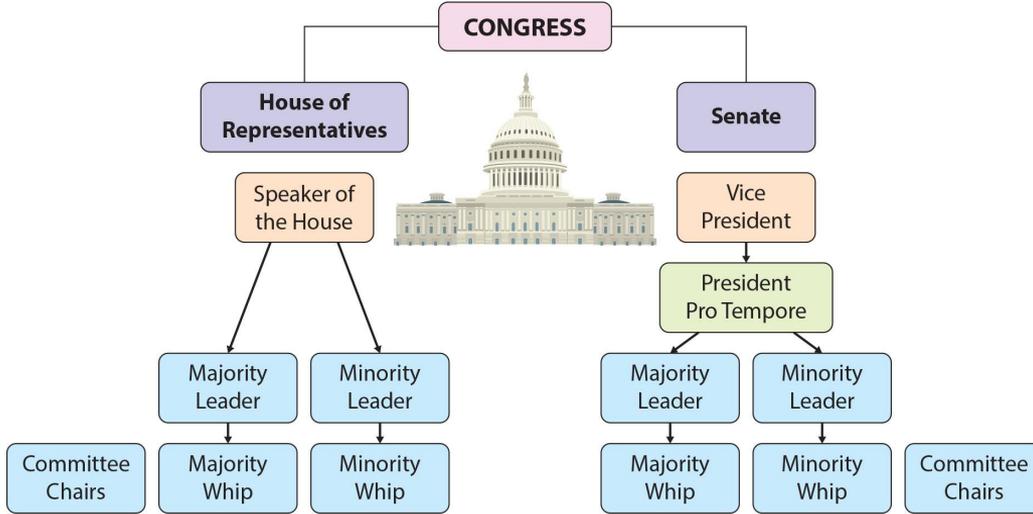


Alexander Hamilton favored a loose interpretation of the Constitution that allowed Congress to enact legislation — like the chartering of the national bank — to promote and expand the interests of the young republic.



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Congressional Leadership



Leadership in each house of Congress is very similar.

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Congressional Committees

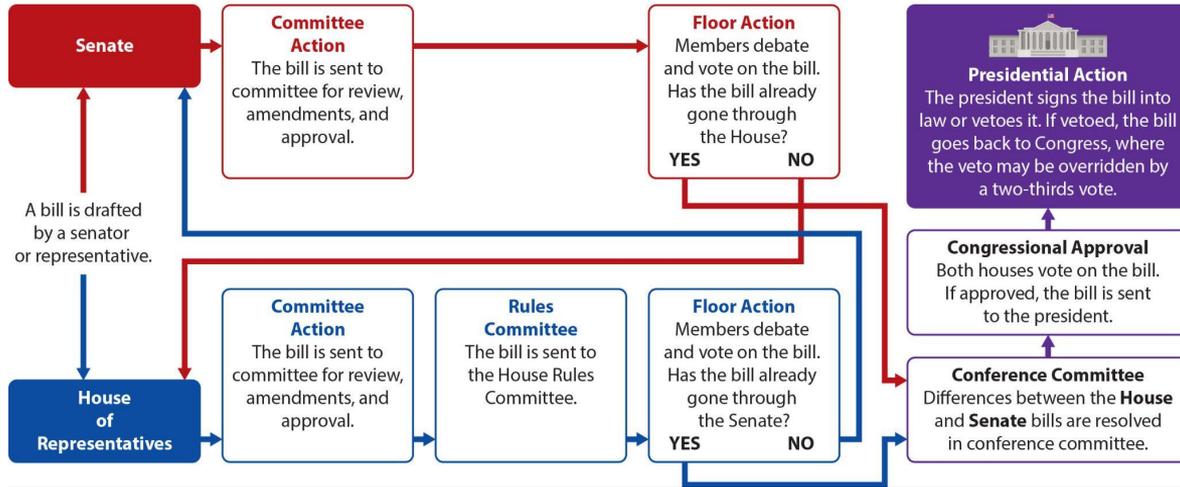
Type	Description	Examples
Standing committee	Permanent committee dedicated to particular policy areas	House: Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Foreign Affairs; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Senate: Committee on the Budget; Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Joint committee	Committee made up of members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate	Joint Economic Committee Joint Committee on the Library
Special committee	Committee formed for a specific task	House: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Senate: Select Committee on Ethics
Conference committee	Committee of members from both houses that is formed to reconcile different versions of a bill	Vary according to bills currently in process

There are four types of congressional committees, including more than fifteen standing committees in each chamber.



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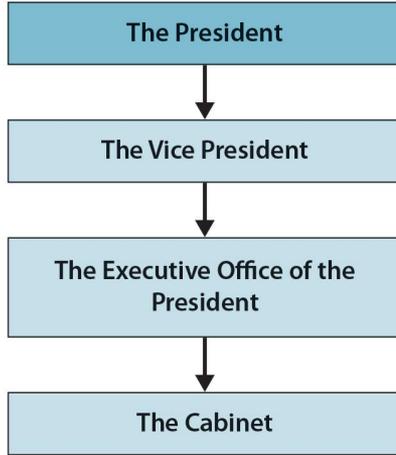
How a Bill Becomes a Law



A bill can originate in either the Senate or the House, but it must be approved by both chambers before it can be sent to the president.

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The Executive Branch



Independent Agencies and Government Corporations

The executive branch consists of many departments and offices, including the cabinet and the Executive Office of the President, which you will read about in the next topic. While independent agencies and government corporations, such as the Federal Election Commission and the U.S. Postal Service, are officially part of the executive branch, many are partially or mostly autonomous from executive oversight.



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Executive Order	Issued By	Description
Executive Order 9066 (1942)	President Franklin D. Roosevelt	Forcibly relocated Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War II
Executive Order 9981 (1948)	President Harry S. Truman	Mandated desegregation of the U.S. military
Executive Order 10730 (1957)	President Dwight D. Eisenhower	Deployed military troops to enforce court orders for the desegregation of Arkansas schools
Executive Order 10924 (1961)	President John F. Kennedy	Created the Peace Corps with the U.S. Department of State to encourage volunteer work in developing countries
Executive Order 11246 (1965)	President Lyndon B. Johnson	Prohibited discrimination in government employment and contracting and created antidiscrimination policies and procedures
Executive Order 13228 (2001)	President George W. Bush	Created the Department of Homeland Security to connect and coordinate federal agencies tasked with domestic security

Presidents have used their power to issue executive orders for a variety of purposes. Several of those listed in this chart were issued during war or other times of crisis or controversy.



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The term *bully pulpit* was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt to describe the president's ability to influence people and policy.



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A president has many responsibilities, including signing legislation (top left), meeting other heads of government or heads of state (bottom left), receiving briefings from the Joint Chiefs of Staff (top right), and delivering the State of the Union address (bottom right).



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The Cabinet

Executive Department	Year Created	Responsibilities
State	1789	Oversee foreign policy and diplomacy
Treasury	1789	Manage government finances and economic policy
Justice	1789	Enforce laws, ensure justice in judicial proceedings
Interior	1849	Manage natural resources and public lands, honor federal responsibilities to Native Americans and other Indigenous peoples
Agriculture	1889	Promote agriculture, food safety, and rural development
Commerce	1903	Promote economic growth and trade opportunities
Labor	1913	Protect workers' rights, promote fair employment

Executive Department	Year Created	Responsibilities
Defense*	1947	Defend the United States, ensure security
Health and Human Services	1953	Ensure public health and access to care
Housing and Urban Development	1965	Ensure fair housing, promote community development
Transportation	1967	Maintain and promote U.S. transportation systems
Energy	1977	Advance energy security and energy technologies
Education	1979	Ensure equitable education and access to funding
Veterans Affairs	1988	Oversee benefit programs for veteran
Homeland Security	2003	Protect people from domestic and foreign threats, manage disaster response

The cabinet is made up of fifteen departments, each with its own responsibilities.



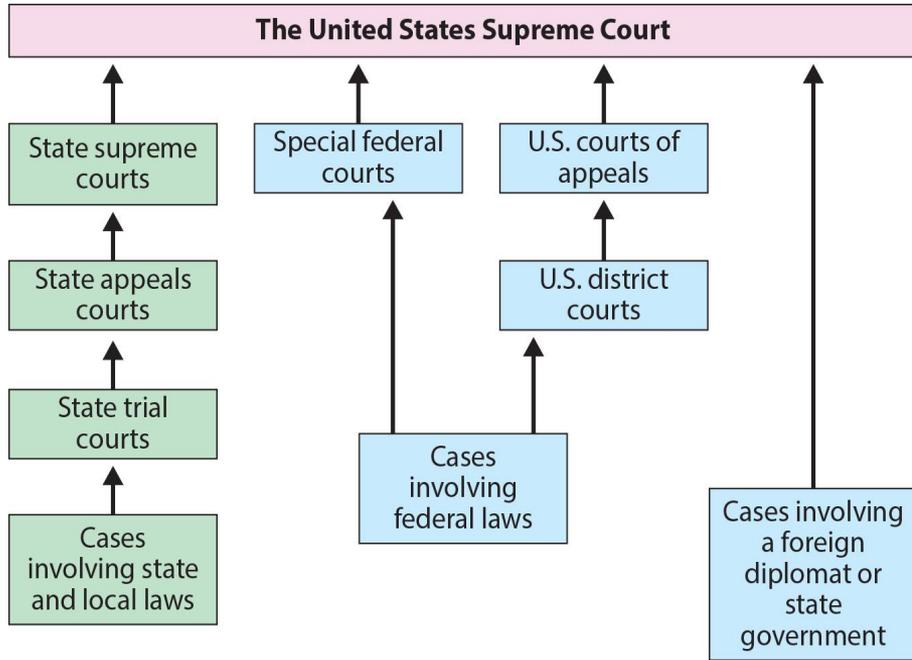
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Sandra Day O'Connor during her Senate hearings prior to her confirmation as the first woman on the Supreme Court



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The U.S. judicial system is made up of different levels of courts that hear different cases depending on their jurisdiction; the arrows point upward to indicate that the U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in the country.

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The Supreme Court of the United States



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Chief Justice John Marshall served as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835. During that time, he greatly shaped the nature and power of the court.



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President George H.W. Bush meets with his military
advisors at the Pentagon, 1990-08-14 (photo)/Gary
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