

## Warmup



### Does the structure of the federal court system allow it to administer justice effectively?

What does “administer justice effectively” mean to you? Complete the statements below with words or phrases that describe “justice” in your view. Some examples have been provided.

<b>Judges should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>
<b>Laws should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• <i>be consistent.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Trials should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>
<b>Members of a jury should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• <i>be impartial.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Someone charged with a crime or civil suit should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• <i>be tried in a timely manner.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Cases that reach the Supreme Court should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• <i>involve significant points of law.</i></li> </ul>

# Exploration

## I. Article III and Article I Courts

### ➔ Find Out

**A.** Read Article III, Section 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the Constitution.  
What does each part state?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Find examples of the Article III and Article I courts in your print or online textbook. List the examples below in the appropriate column, and then answer the questions that follow.

Article III Courts (also called _____ courts)	Article I Courts (also called _____ courts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

1. Which is the only court mentioned in the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the two levels of federal courts? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How are the inferior courts further divided? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which type of inferior courts did Congress create? \_\_\_\_\_



## What Do You Think?

**C.** Why do you think there are so many types of courts in the federal court system?

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## II. Federal Court Jurisdiction



## Find Out

**A.** Review the jurisdiction of federal courts in your print or online textbook. Then fill in the information on both sides of the T-chart below.

### Federal Court Jurisdiction

<b>Exclusive jurisdiction</b> <i>Definition:</i>	<b>Subject matter</b> <i>a case that involves an issue in the Constitution; a federal law, treaty, or act of Congress; maritime law; an official of a foreign government; a person charged with a federal crime; patent or copyright issues</i> <b>Parties involved</b>
<b>Concurrent jurisdiction</b> <i>Definition:</i>	<b>Types of cases</b>
<b>Original jurisdiction</b> <i>Definition:</i>	<b>Which federal courts have this jurisdiction?</b> <i>District courts, the Supreme Court, U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Tax Court, Territorial Courts, Courts of the District of Columbia</i>
<b>Appellate jurisdiction</b> <i>Definition:</i>	<b>Which federal courts have this jurisdiction?</b>



## What Do You Think?

**B.** In the T-chart, you described the jurisdiction of federal courts. What kinds of cases do you think would be heard in *State* and *local* courts?

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## III. Structure and Functions of Inferior Courts



## Find Out

**A.** Review the jurisdiction and functions of the inferior courts. Then complete the chart below.

Name of Court	Jurisdiction/Functions
District Courts Number: _____	
Courts of Appeals Number: _____	
Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit	
U.S. Court of International Trade	
Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	<i>appellate jurisdiction over court-martial convictions</i>
Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	
Court of Federal Claims	
Territorial Courts	<i>hear cases in the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands</i>
District of Columbia Courts	
U.S. Tax Court	

- B.** Review the appellate path of federal inferior courts in your print or online textbook.  
Then use the information to answer the questions below.

**CASE 1:** A citizen is accused of counterfeiting.

In what type of court does the case begin? \_\_\_\_\_

If the case is appealed, where would it go next? \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE 2:** An American importer of fish claims that the U.S. Department of Commerce placed an unusually high tax on fish fillets from Vietnam.

Where does this case begin? \_\_\_\_\_

The American importer loses and appeals to which court? \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE 3:** An Ohio company claims that a Florida company produced an identical product, and files for copyright violation.

Where does the case begin? \_\_\_\_\_

The Ohio company loses and appeals to which court? \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE 4:** A citizen in Guam is accused of kidnapping.

Where does the case begin? \_\_\_\_\_

The defendant is found guilty and appeals. Where does the case go? \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE 5:** A citizen claims that the U.S. Forest Service harmed his crops by damming a stream upriver on government land, and he sues for damages.

Where does this case begin? \_\_\_\_\_

The citizen loses and appeals to which court? \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE 6:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission appeals a case.

Where is the appeal heard? \_\_\_\_\_



### What Do You Think?

- C.** Invent two new inferior courts with narrowly defined jurisdiction. Explain how they would help the federal courts more effectively administer justice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Structure and Functions of the Supreme Court

### ➔ Find Out

**A.** Review information about the Supreme Court in your print or online textbook. Then answer the questions below.

**1.** Over what cases does the Supreme Court have exclusive and original jurisdiction?

*controversies involving two or more States; cases against ambassadors or other public ministers*

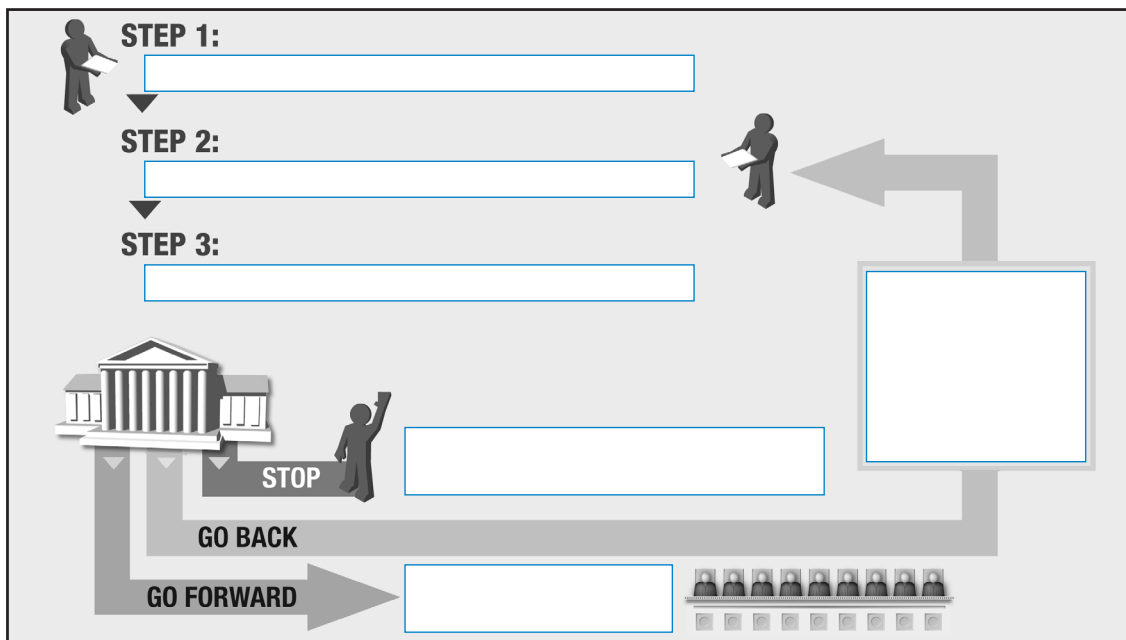
**2.** Which jurisdiction does the Supreme Court utilize the most, by far? \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** About how many cases does the Court hear each year? \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** What happens after the Court agrees to hear a case?

**B.** Use your print or online textbook to fill in the diagram below.

### How a Case Reaches the Supreme Court



### 👤 What Do You Think?

**C.** Why do you think the path of appeal to the Supreme Court involves so many steps?

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## Apply What You've Learned Activity

Interview a federal judge or lawyer who has experience with federal cases. Use this worksheet to write his or her answers to the Apply What You've Learned questions from your print or online textbook.

Questions	Responses
What do you think is the purpose of the law?	
What is the role of the courts in our system of government?	
What do you think are the advantages of trying a case in federal court, as compared to a State or local court? The disadvantages?	

- A.** Based on the interview you conducted and the content you have learned in this chapter, has your opinion about the federal court system changed in any way? Explain your answer.

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- B.** Make a list of at least five qualifications you think the President should consider in selecting a justice for the Supreme Court or any federal judge.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your qualifications.

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## Essay



### Does the structure of the federal court system allow it to administer justice effectively?

Most of the cases the Supreme Court agrees to hear today involve constitutional issues. Before the Judiciary Act of 1925, however, *anyone* had the right to appeal to the Supreme Court if a case involved more than \$1,000 or a conviction of a capital crime. In addition, before 1891 Supreme Court justices rode circuit, or traveled around a large region to hear cases. The federal court system was restructured to reduce the number of cases heard by the Supreme Court.

Some justices were forced to ride hundreds of miles each year in trains and horse-drawn coaches over poorly kept roads. In 1839, for example, the nine justices traveled nearly 30,000 miles riding circuit. Justice Stephen J. Field's Pacific circuit took him by sail to the West Coast, traveling by rail across Panama. After the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, he at least was able to make the journey by rail. . . . The 1890s and the new century witnessed a spurt in regulatory legislation at the state and federal levels, and the Court's docket once again exploded. It grew from 723 cases in 1900 to 1,116 in 1910.

— *History of the Supreme Court*, [www.historyofsupremecourt.org/overview.htm](http://www.historyofsupremecourt.org/overview.htm)



### What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **Does the structure of the federal court system allow it to administer justice effectively?** Consider your thoughts on the quotation above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have completed in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.



### Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 5 Essential Question: **What should be the role of the judicial branch?**