

Chapter 18

Section 2: The Inferior Courts

Guiding Question: What are the structure and jurisdiction of the inferior courts?

GET STARTED

Lesson Goals:

- ☐ Students will identify the structure of the constitutional courts.
- ☐ Students will understand how the constitutional courts function.

Bellringer Write the following on the board. Have students answer the question in their notebooks and then review the answers as a class. **The federal district courts are also called the Article III courts, the regular courts, or the “courts of first instance.”**

Give a possible reason for each alternate name for the federal district courts.

Vocabulary Have students work in pairs to look up the definition of each word. Then have them come up with an example of each type of case and share their examples with the class.

TEACH

Tell students that in this section they will learn about the lower federal courts. Point out that decisions of the lower federal courts can be changed in higher courts. Then ask students to read the section to learn more.

Ask:

- How many judges are there in the district courts? (*There are more than 650 judges.*)
- What is another name for courts of appeals? (*Courts of appeals are sometimes called appellate courts.*)
- What is the main difference between district courts and courts of appeals? (*District courts hear cases for the first time. Courts of appeals hear cases that have already been tried and in which people believe their trial was unfair.*)

Learning Styles: Body/Kinesthetic

Assign four students to role-play attorneys, two for the defense and two for the prosecution, in the trial of a person accused of robbing a convenience store. Have all students write questions that might be asked of potential jurors for the case. Have the attorneys use these questions to select 12 jurors from the class. Then have the attorneys explain to the class why they believe these students would make a fair jury of peers in the trial.

Other Strategies

ELL/ESL Strategy

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

- Assign the Section Assessment questions; grade student responses.

Chapter Resources

Essential Questions Journal

Chapter 18 Outline (All-in-One, pp. 10–12)

Other Resources

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

(All-in-One, p. 26)

Extend Activity (All-in-One, p. 28)

Section Quiz B (All-in-One, p. 30)

Audio support is available for this section.

Additional features for Differentiated Instruction can be found throughout the Teacher’s Edition.