

## **U.S. CONGRESS**

### What is the U.S. Congress?

Congress is the legislative branch of government. It is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The capitol building is where Congress meets in Washington, D.C. People in Congress usually belong to either the Republican or Democratic party.



# PREVIEW

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The number of representatives that each state gets is figured out from the population of the state. The house is led by the **Speaker of the House**.

## What can Congress do?

- make new laws
- borrow money
- declare war
- set up courts
- ratify (approve) treaties that the President makes
- confirm Supreme Court Justices
- impeach federal officials (House of Representatives)
- amend the Constitution

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#### Who can be a member of Congress?

#### House of Representatives:

- at least 25 years old
- U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
- Live in the state where elected

#### Senate:

- at least 30 years old
- U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
- Live in the state where elected

#### **Making Laws:**

A law starts out as a **bill** that is introduced by a member of Congress. Each bill is given to one or more committees. If the committees



Propose a new bill

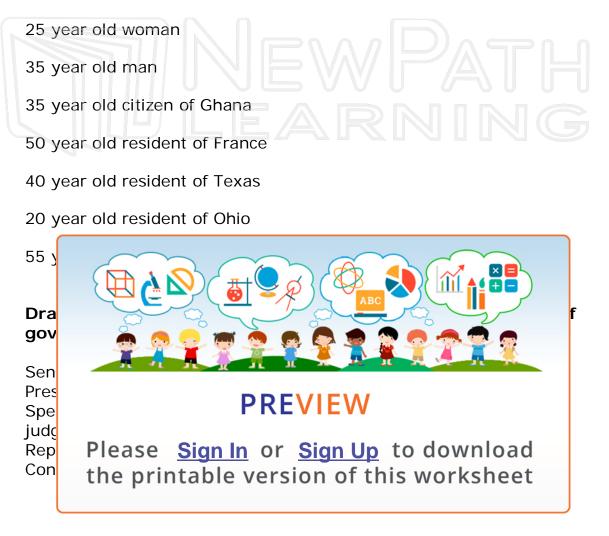
Declare war

Borrow money

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# Draw an X through people who could not serve as a U.S. Senator.





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