

House and Senate

The House of Representatives and the Senate make up the legislative branch of the U.S. government. Decide if each description below refers to the House of Representatives (H) or the Senate (S). Write the appropriate letter on the line before each statement.

- 1 chamber in which a bill of revenue originates
- 2 chamber in which an official can be impeached
- 3 chamber in which an impeached official can be tried
- 4 chamber in which the vice president can break a tie vote
- 5 chamber that can approve presidential appointees
- 6 chamber that has the power to ratify treaties
- 7 branch in which the president *pro tempore* serves
- 8 branch in which members serve two-year terms
- 9 branch referred to as the "upper house"
- 10 branch in which members are required to be at least twenty-five years old
- 11 branch whose members have the larger constituency

Representation in the House of Representatives

Match each term in the box with its description below. Write the correct letter on the line. Then answer the questions that follow.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| a. gerrymandering | b. census | c. apportionment |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|

- 12 an official counting of the population
- 13 dividing a geographic region such as a state into voting districts in order to give an advantage to one political party

14 the distribution of representatives among the states, based on population.

Name _____

Party Leaders

Leaders of the two major political parties play an important role in Congress. They direct the conduct of business in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence about party leaders below.

- 1 Who is the current speaker of the House? _____
- 2 The majority leader of the House of Representatives is elected by _____
 - a. the entire House of Representatives.
 - b. the entire House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - c. members of the majority party in the House of Representatives.
 - d. members of the majority party in the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- 3 The majority leader of the House of Representatives _____
 - a. outranks the speaker of the House.
 - b. is elected by party members.
 - c. is reelected every year.
 - d. always comes from a large state.
- 4 The majority whip of the Senate _____
 - a. assists the majority leader.
 - b. writes legislation.
 - c. keeps tabs on party members.
 - d. both a and c
- 5 How is the president of the Senate determined? _____
- 6 How is the president *pro tempore* determined? _____