

Guided Reading Activity



The Structure of Congress

Lesson 2 *The House of Representatives*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: Both houses of Congress have well-defined rules so that legislators are free to express their opinions while maintaining fairness and protecting the minority.

1. **Detail:** The complex _____ in the House are intended to move legislation

quickly once it reaches the floor; consequently, House debates rarely last more than one

_____.

2. **Detail:** The _____ of Congress perform most legislative activity, and members

serve on those that are important to their _____.

3. **Detail:** In both the House and the Senate, the _____ party has the power to

select its respective leaders, control the flow of legislative work, and appoint the chairs of all the

_____.

B. Main Idea: Leaders of the House coordinate the work of the legislative body and move forward their party's agenda.

1. **Detail:** The _____ _____ _____

_____, chosen by the majority party in caucus and approved by the entire

House membership, is the presiding officer and its most powerful leader.

2. **Detail:** The Speaker's top assistant is the _____,

whose job is to help plan the party's legislative program, steer important bills through the House,

and make sure committee chairpersons finish work on bills that are important to the party.

3. **Detail:** The majority _____ and deputy _____ assist the

majority leader in persuading the party's members to support legislation important to the party.

4. **Detail:** The duties of the minority leaders _____ the duties of the majority

party leaders, but the minority leaders cannot _____ work in the House.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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C. Main Idea: Although all laws start as bills, not all bills survive the process required to become laws.

1. **Detail:** After a bill is introduced, the _____
_____ assigns it to the appropriate
_____ where it is studied, discussed, reviewed, and may eventually be put on
the House calendar for consideration.

2. **Detail:** Because the calendars are so full, the powerful _____
_____ determines the order in which bills reach the House floor, how long they
may be debated and revised, and settles disputes among _____.

3. **Detail:** A quorum of _____ is required for official legislative action, but
100 members can sit as a _____
_____ and debate or change legislation before
returning a bill to the House for a vote.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How does the structure and organization of the House of Representatives affect the progress of a bill through the House?
