# From Bill to Law

Trace how three branches shape and check federal laws.

**5.C.6.3.D** "Explain how the Constitution of the United States of America establishes a process for making laws, including specific roles for Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline what Congress does to a bill, circle what the President does to a bill, and draw a box around how the Supreme Court checks a law.

### A Plan for Park Water

1. Imagine a plan to put free water refill stations in every national park. Under the Constitution, Congress makes federal laws. A member of Congress could introduce this plan as a bill. Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate would debate it and vote. Both parts of Congress must pass the same bill before it goes to the President. A bill is not a law just because someone suggests it.

2. The President has a choice when a bill reaches the White House. The President can sign it, making it a law, or veto it, sending it back to Congress. A veto does not always end the plan. Congress can still make the bill a law by voting to override the veto. That takes a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate. This gives both branches a part in the process.

3. The Supreme Court does not vote on bills or sign laws. If a case about a law reaches the Court, the justices can decide whether that law follows the Constitution. For example, someone might challenge a federal law in court, saying it breaks a constitutional rule. If the Supreme Court rules that a law is unconstitutional, that law cannot be enforced. The Court checks laws through cases, not before every law takes effect.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a proposal move through Congress before the President can act on it?

2. What two actions can the President take on a bill Congress passes, and how does each affect the bill?

3. If the President vetoes the park bill, how can Congress still make it a law?

4. When can the Supreme Court examine a law, and how is its role different from Congress's role?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a new federal law you would propose, not about water in parks. In four or five sentences, explain what Congress and the President would do, what could happen after a veto, and how the Supreme Court might later check the law if a case reaches it.

ANSWER KEY

# From Bill to Law

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.3.D

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what Congress does to a bill, circle what the President does to a bill, and draw a box around how the Supreme Court checks a law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does a proposal move through Congress before the President can act on it? | **A member introduces it as a bill. The House and Senate debate and vote on it, and both must pass the same bill.** |
| 2 | What two actions can the President take on a bill Congress passes, and how does each affect the bill? | **The President can sign it into law or veto it and send it back to Congress.** |
| 3 | If the President vetoes the park bill, how can Congress still make it a law? | **Two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate must vote to override the veto.** |
| 4 | When can the Supreme Court examine a law, and how is its role different from Congress's role? | **The Court can examine a law when a case about it reaches the Court. Congress votes on bills to make laws, while the Court decides whether a law follows the Constitution.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would propose a federal law to protect nesting areas for migrating birds. A member of Congress would introduce a bill, and the House and Senate would each need to pass the same bill. The President could sign it into law or veto it. After a veto, two-thirds of each part of Congress could vote to make it a law anyway. If a case about the law reached the Supreme Court, the justices could decide whether it follows the Constitution.

Accept any plausible federal law idea. The response should place Congress and the President in the correct order, give the two-thirds override requirement, and describe Supreme Court review as part of a case rather than an automatic step.