

Court Power Check

Trace the judicial branch's role under Article III.

CE.2.d "explaining the particular role and powers of the judicial branch as explained in Article III of the Constitution of the United States; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each kind of case Article III allows federal courts to decide. Circle the phrases that tell when the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction or appellate jurisdiction.

What Article III Does

- ① Article III creates the judicial branch. It says that the judicial power of the United States belongs to one Supreme Court and to lower federal courts that Congress may establish. Courts do not make laws or carry them out. Their central job is to decide actual cases and controversies brought before them. In doing so, judges interpret the Constitution, federal laws, and treaties. This power gives the courts a role in checking whether government actions follow the nation's highest law.
- ② Article III lists several kinds of disputes that may be heard in federal court. These include cases arising under the Constitution, federal laws, or treaties. They also include cases involving ambassadors, admiralty and maritime matters, and cases in which the United States is a party. Article III covers certain disputes between states, citizens of different states, or a state and citizens of another state. The list limits federal courts to the kinds of cases the Constitution permits them to decide.
- ③ Most cases do not begin in the Supreme Court. Article III gives it original jurisdiction in cases involving ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and cases in which a state is a party. In other listed cases, the Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction, meaning it reviews a lower court's decision, subject to rules made by Congress. The Constitution also requires jury trials for federal crimes, except impeachment cases. Federal judges serve during good behavior, and their pay cannot be reduced while they serve. These protections support independent decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 According to Article III, where is the judicial power of the United States placed, and what may Congress do?

2 A person claims that a federal law violates the Constitution. Why can this case fall under federal judicial power?

3 How is the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction different from its appellate jurisdiction?

4 Name two Article III protections or requirements that help courts make fair and independent decisions.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a one-sentence case involving a type of dispute listed in Article III. Then write two sentences explaining why federal judicial power can cover the case and whether it begins under the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction or could reach the Court on appeal.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each kind of case Article III allows federal courts to decide. Circle the phrases that tell when the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction or appellate jurisdiction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to Article III, where is the judicial power of the United States placed, and what may Congress do?	Judicial power is placed in one Supreme Court and in lower federal courts that Congress may establish.
2	A person claims that a federal law violates the Constitution. Why can this case fall under federal judicial power?	It is a case arising under the Constitution and federal laws, which Article III includes in federal judicial power.
3	How is the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction different from its appellate jurisdiction?	Original jurisdiction means the case begins in the Supreme Court, including cases involving ambassadors or a state as a party. Appellate jurisdiction means the Court reviews a lower court's decision in other listed cases, subject to Congress's rules.
4	Name two Article III protections or requirements that help courts make fair and independent decisions.	Answers may include jury trials for federal crimes except impeachment, judges serving during good behavior, and judges' pay not being reduced while they serve.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A shipping company sues after another ship damages its cargo at sea. This is an admiralty or maritime case, so Article III allows federal judicial power to cover it. Because it is not an original-jurisdiction category named in Article III, the Supreme Court could review it on appeal under Congress's rules.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the listed Article III case categories and jurisdiction types. For the open response, accept any accurate Article III dispute and a correct explanation of original jurisdiction or possible appellate review.