

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Supreme Court

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. On First Street NE in Washington, DC, stands the US Supreme Court building—the home of the Court. The Constitution established the Supreme Court as the highest court in the United States. The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices, or judges—one chief justice and eight associate justices. They are chosen by the president and approved by the Senate. And once a justice is sworn in, they serve for life or until they retire. Here is an excerpt from the Constitution: Article III, Section 1. \*The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.\*

How long do federal judges appointed under Article III, Section 1 serve?

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|---|---|
| A. For 10 years                         | B. Until they resign or are removed from office |
| C. Until the end of a presidential term | D. For 35 years                                 |
2. The Supreme Court is often referred to as the guardian and interpreter of the Constitution. Its main job is to protect people's rights and freedoms. As part of the judicial branch of government, it also serves as a check and balance for the executive and legislative branches. The Court evaluates laws passed by Congress and the president and makes sure they are fair and agree with the Constitution. Through a process called judicial review, the Court can declare a law unconstitutional, or in violation of the Constitution.

One of the main responsibilities of the Supreme Court is to {}.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. sign treaties              | B. declare wars                      |
| C. interpret the Constitution | D. choose justices to join the Court |

3. The Court takes on cases that haven't been resolved by lower courts; but the Court doesn't take just *any* case. The Supreme Court receives over 7,000 cases each year but only agrees to hear about 100. The Court only hears cases that involve important issues that impact the whole country. Its decisions are final, and they apply to all citizens. You may have even heard of some of the Supreme Court's landmark cases, like *Loving v. Virginia*, in which the Court struck down laws banning interracial marriage, and *Brown v. Board of Education*, a SCOTUS decision that desegregated schools. These decisions impacted the whole country.

Which of the following is true?

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|---|---|
| A. The Supreme Court hears every case brought to them.          | B. The Supreme Court's decisions can easily be overturned.                |
| C. The Supreme Court's decisions only affect certain US states. | D. The Supreme Court takes on cases that have been heard in lower courts. |