

Name _____ Date _____

The Supreme Court

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

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.

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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.

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Here is an excerpt from the Constitution: Article III, Section 1.

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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.

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2. b'

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.

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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.

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3. b'

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.

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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.

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