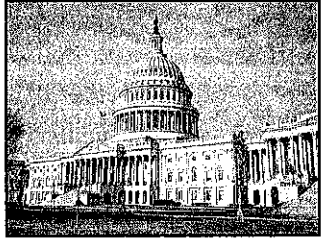


NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# The Two Houses of Congress

Read this table to learn more about the U.S. Congress. Then answer the questions below.

	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
<b>How many members?</b>	435	100
<b>How many seats does each state have?</b>	Based on population. The most-populous state, California, has 53 House seats; the least-populous states have one each.	Each state has two Senators.
<b>How long is each member's term?</b>	Two years	Six years
<b>Can a member be re-elected?</b>	Yes. There is no limit to the number of terms.	Yes. There is no limit to the number of terms.
<b>Are all members elected at the same time?</b>	Yes. Representatives are elected in every even-numbered year (2008, 2010, etc.).	No. One third of the Senate is elected in each even-numbered year.
<b>Who is its highest-ranking official?</b>	Speaker of the House	Vice President of the U.S.
<b>What are the special powers of each house?</b>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• originates all revenue bills (legislation to collect taxes)</li> <li>• votes whether to impeach federal officials (charge them with serious misconduct)</li> <li>• decides who will be President if no candidate receives a majority of the electoral vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirms U.S. treaties by a two-thirds vote</li> <li>• confirms President's appointments by a majority vote</li> <li>• votes whether to remove impeached officials from office</li> <li>• decides who will be Vice President if no candidate receives a majority of the electoral vote</li> </ul>

**Questions** ★★★

*Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.*

- 1. In which house are the states equally represented?**
- 2. In which house do the most populous states have the most representatives?**
- 3. Which state has the most members of Congress?**
- 4. Which house has the power to approve presidential appointments?**
- 5. How do the two houses of Congress balance the interests of large and small states?**

IMAGE: GEORGE CARRON/GETTY IMAGES