Distribute one “Judicial Branch in a Flash!” reading page to each student.

Anticipate with a quick poll of the class, asking how many students have heard the following words: trial, judge, jury, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, remand or judicial review.

Explain that today will be an overview of the judicial system, and that they will learn all these terms and more.

Read the "Judicial Branch in a Flash!” reading page together with the class, pausing to explain as necessary.

Check for understanding by using the true/false activity found on the teacher’s Active Participation Guide. Students may answer by calling “true” or “false” as a chorus, or by showing you thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

Distribute the “Judicial Branch in a Flash!” review worksheet. It should have parts A, B, and C on one side and the crossword puzzle on the other side. Circulate to answer questions as necessary. Students should use the reading page as a reference sheet.

Assign parts A, B, and C of the “Judicial Branch in a Flash!” review worksheet and the crossword puzzle on the back.

Close by quizzing the class with the A/B activity found on the teacher’s Active Participation Guide. Read the incomplete statement, then give the class the two answer choices. The class may answer by calling "A" or "B" as a chorus, or by saying the correct answer as a chorus.

** Optional Extra Activity **

Play the Judicial Branch Bingo game with the class. See the Judicial Branch Bingo directions for how to play the game.
TRUE/FALSE

1. The Supreme Court is a trial court. (F)
2. There is only one judge in a trial court. (T)
3. The Supreme Court can strike down an unconstitutional law. (T)
4. When you first begin a trial, you will be in an appellate court. (F)
5. A jury decides the case in a bench trial. (F)
6. The Supreme Court must take every case that gets appealed to it. (T)
7. If you break a state law, your case will probably be in a state court system. (T)
8. The Supreme Court’s power to decide if is constitutional is called judicial review. (T)
9. It would be easy to prove a case without evidence. (F)
10. If the Court of Appeals remands a case, that means the court says the verdict was right. (F)
11. The federal court system was created by Congress. (T)
12. State court systems were created by the Constitution of the United States. (F)
13. When you ask a higher court to review your case, you are making an appeal. (T)
14. When the Court of Appeals affirms a case, it sends the case back to the trial court. (F)
15. The Supreme Court gets the last word about what the Constitution really says. (T)

A/B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When someone is accused of a crime, the type of case is</td>
<td>civil</td>
<td>criminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you appeal a case, you are going to</td>
<td>appellate court</td>
<td>trial court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The court that gets to decide what is constitutional and what isn’t is</td>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
<td>Court of Appeals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the appellate court thinks a decision was wrong, it will</td>
<td>affirm the decision</td>
<td>reverse the decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a group of people gives the verdict after a trial, that trial was a</td>
<td>jury trial</td>
<td>bench trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A word that means “relating to the rights of citizens”</td>
<td>criminal</td>
<td>civil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Supreme Court has</td>
<td>three justices</td>
<td>nine justices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If an appellate court sends a case back to the trial court, it has</td>
<td>affirmed the case</td>
<td>remanded the case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you go to the Court of Appeals, you will see</td>
<td>three judges</td>
<td>one judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Supreme Court strikes down a law, that law was</td>
<td>unconstitutional</td>
<td>constitutional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The decision in a case is called the</td>
<td>evidence</td>
<td>verdict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you break a law of the United States, your case will probably be in a</td>
<td>federal court</td>
<td>state court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At trial, lawyers try to prove their case using</td>
<td>an appeal</td>
<td>evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Court of Appeals reverses a decision, then</td>
<td>the case is all</td>
<td>there is still the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>over</td>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State courts were created by</td>
<td>the US Constitution</td>
<td>state constitutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Finish each sentence.

The only court the Constitution creates is ____________ Supreme Court.

The two court systems in the United States are ____________ the state and federal systems.

Two kinds of legal cases are ____________ criminal and civil.

The job of the Court of Appeals is ____________ to see if the trial court made a mistake.

It’s difficult to take a case to the Supreme Court because ____________ the Supreme Court chooses which cases to hear and they don’t choose very many.

If you lose a case in the trial court, you can ____________ appeal to a higher court.

If an appellate court affirms a case, that means ____________ the verdict stays the same.

If a law is unconstitutional, the Supreme Court can ____________ strike it down.

Evidence is used to ____________ prove that one person’s side of the story is what really happened.

A trial with no jury is a ____________ bench trial.

B. Making Comparisons. Decide whether each description fits trial courts only, appellate courts only, or both, and write the letter of the description in the correct part of the diagram. The first one is done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial Court</th>
<th>Appellate Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Hears civil cases
B. Might have a jury trial
C. Does not hear cases for the first time
D. Hears criminal cases
E. Reviews a verdict to look for mistakes
F. Usually has three-judge panels
G. Hears cases for the first time
H. Works with laws

C. 1, 2, 3... Sequencing! Number each set of events to put the three events in order.

1) ____________ 1. Trial is held in the District Court
   ____________ 2. The Supreme Court agrees to hear the case
   ____________ 3. An appeal is made to the Court of Appeals

2) ____________ 1. Evidence is presented to the jury
   ____________ 2. The members of the jury are chosen
   ____________ 3. The jury returns a verdict

3) ____________ 1. The jury returns a verdict
   ____________ 2. The case is appealed
   ____________ 3. The Court of Appeals affirms the case

4) ____________ 1. The first verdict is appealed
   ____________ 2. A new trial begins
   ____________ 3. The Court of Appeals remands the case

5) ____________ 1. Congress passes a law
   ____________ 2. The Supreme Court hears a case about the law
   ____________ 3. The Supreme Court strikes down the law
Across
1. Number of court systems in the U.S.
3. Group of people that decides a case after hearing the evidence
6. When an appellate court upholds a verdict
7. What appellate judges look for when they review a case
8. Something that goes against the Constitution
9. Number of justices on the Supreme Court
10. Taking a case through the court system is like riding one of these
11. When an appellate court rejects a verdict
14. This court gets to choose which cases to hear
18. Type of court that reviews the trial court’s decision
19. The Supreme Court’s power to decide what is constitutional
23. When there is more than one judge, the group of judges is called a _____
24. The lowest court in the federal system
25. Choosing between the federal or state court system depends on the ____ involved in the case

Down
1. The first court to hear a case
2. People or things that can prove one side’s version of what happened
4. When an appellate court sends a case back to the trial court
5. One kind of evidence
11. What an appellate court does with a case
12. The document that created the judicial branch
13. Type of case relating to peoples’ rights
14. Court system that deals with state laws
15. Court system that deals with United States laws
16. What a judge wears
17. One kind of evidence
20. Type of case about someone accused of committing a crime
21. Asking an appellate court to review a case
22. Type of trial that has no jury