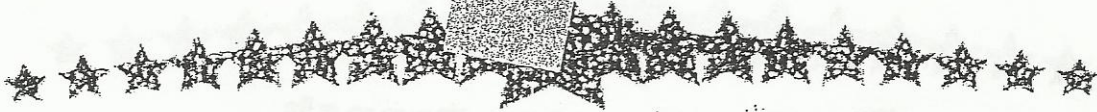


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Laws Are Made

Following are the basic steps for how a law is made:

1. A bill, the first draft of a law, is introduced by a member of Congress.
2. The bill is studied by a committee.
3. The committee decides whether the bill would make a good law or whether it should be tabled, or set aside, because it would not make a good law.
4. The bill is discussed by the entire House of Representatives or entire Senate, depending on which house introduced the bill.
5. The House or the Senate votes on the bill.
6. If a bill passes in the House, it goes to the Senate for approval. If the bill passes in the Senate first, it goes to the House for approval.
7. If both the House and the Senate agree that the bill would make a good law, but disagree about certain parts of the bill, a joint committee, made up of members of both the House and the Senate, will work to make the bill acceptable to both houses.
8. If both houses of Congress pass the bill, it is sent to the president to sign.
9. If the president signs the bill, it becomes a law.
10. If the president vetoes, or does not sign, the bill, it goes back to Congress. If Congress still thinks the bill should become a law, they can override the president's veto. To override a presidential veto, at least two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House of Representatives must vote yes.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is a bill? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happens after a bill is introduced by a member of Congress? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean to table a bill? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: A bill can be sent to the president to sign if only one house of Congress passes it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. True or False: A bill cannot become a law if the president does not sign it. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Both the president's veto and Congress's power to override the president's veto are examples of what important feature of the U.S. government?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_