

Our National Government



Corresponds to QuickReads Level C, book 1,
Civics, Our National Government

Photo: Barack Obama attends a briefing on Afghanistan in the Situation Room of the White House. Taken by Pete Souza, White House. Released into public domain by the United States federal government.

Government

- The group of people who govern a country, state, etc.
- Example: The president of the United States is only one person working in the United States *government*.



Photo: With his family by his side, Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States. January, 2009. Taken by Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo, U.S. Air Force. Released into public domain by the United States Air Force.

Taxes

- The money you must pay the government, based on how much you earn, what you buy, where you live, etc.
- Example: We pay *taxes* when we buy things we like to eat.



Photo: Heiwa Shopping Avenue in Naha, Okinawa prefecture, Japan. March, 2003. ©2003 by 663highland. Some rights reserved www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0.



Branches

- A part of a government or organization that deals with one particular part of its work.
- Example: The United States government is made up of three *branches*.



Photo: President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Washington, D.C., March, 2009. Taken by Chuck Kennedy. Released into public domain by the U.S. federal government.

Photo: The Supreme Court. October, 2010. This work is in the public domain in the United States because it is a work of the United States Federal Government under the terms of Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 105 of the US Code.

Photo: President Barack Obama speaks to a joint session of Congress regarding health care reform. September, 2009. Taken by Lawrence Jackson. Released into public domain by the United States federal government.

Elect

- To choose someone for an official position by voting.
- Example: Many people voted in this election to *elect* a new government.



Capitol



Photo: The western front of the United States Capitol. August, 2009. Taken by the Architect of the Capitol. Released into public domain by the United States Federal Government.

Supreme Court Judges



Photo: The Supreme Court. October, 2010. This work is in the public domain in the United States because it is a work of the United States Federal Government under the terms of Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 105 of the US Code.

Courtrooms

- The room where a case is judged by a court of law.
- Example: When the judge spoke, the whole *courtroom* fell silent.



Presidency

- The job of being a president, or the period of time of when someone is a president.
- Example: In November 2008, Barack Obama won the election and the *presidency* of the United States.



Armed Forces



Photo: At sea with USS *Bataan* (LHD-5) Jul. 17, 1999. Released into public domain by the United States Navy.

Photo: Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division drive their M-1A Abrams tank. Frankfurt, Germany. February, 2005. Released into public domain by the United States Army.

Photo: Amphibious Assault Vehicles enter the well deck. Taken by Mate 2nd Class Jennifer Swader. Released into public domain by the United States Navy.

Photo: United States Coast Guard rescue diver jumps from a HH-60 Jayhawk during a demonstration at the 2004 Seafair in Seattle, Washington. ©2004 by Brandon Weeks. Some rights reserved www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0

Photo: USAF Thunderbirds Flight Demonstration Team 6 plane formation. Langley AFB. April, 2009. ©2009 by Scott Dunham. Some rights reserved www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0.

House of Representatives

- The larger of the two groups of people who are part of the government and who make the laws in countries such as the U.S.
- Example: In 2010, 53 people were sent to the United States Congress to represent the state of California in the *House of Representatives*.



Photo: President Barack Obama speaks to a joint session of Congress regarding health care reform. September, 2009. Taken by Lawrence Jackson. Released into public domain by the United States federal government.

Senate

- The smaller of the two groups of people who make the laws in countries such as U.S.
- Example: Each of the 50 states can only send 2 people to the United States *Senate*.

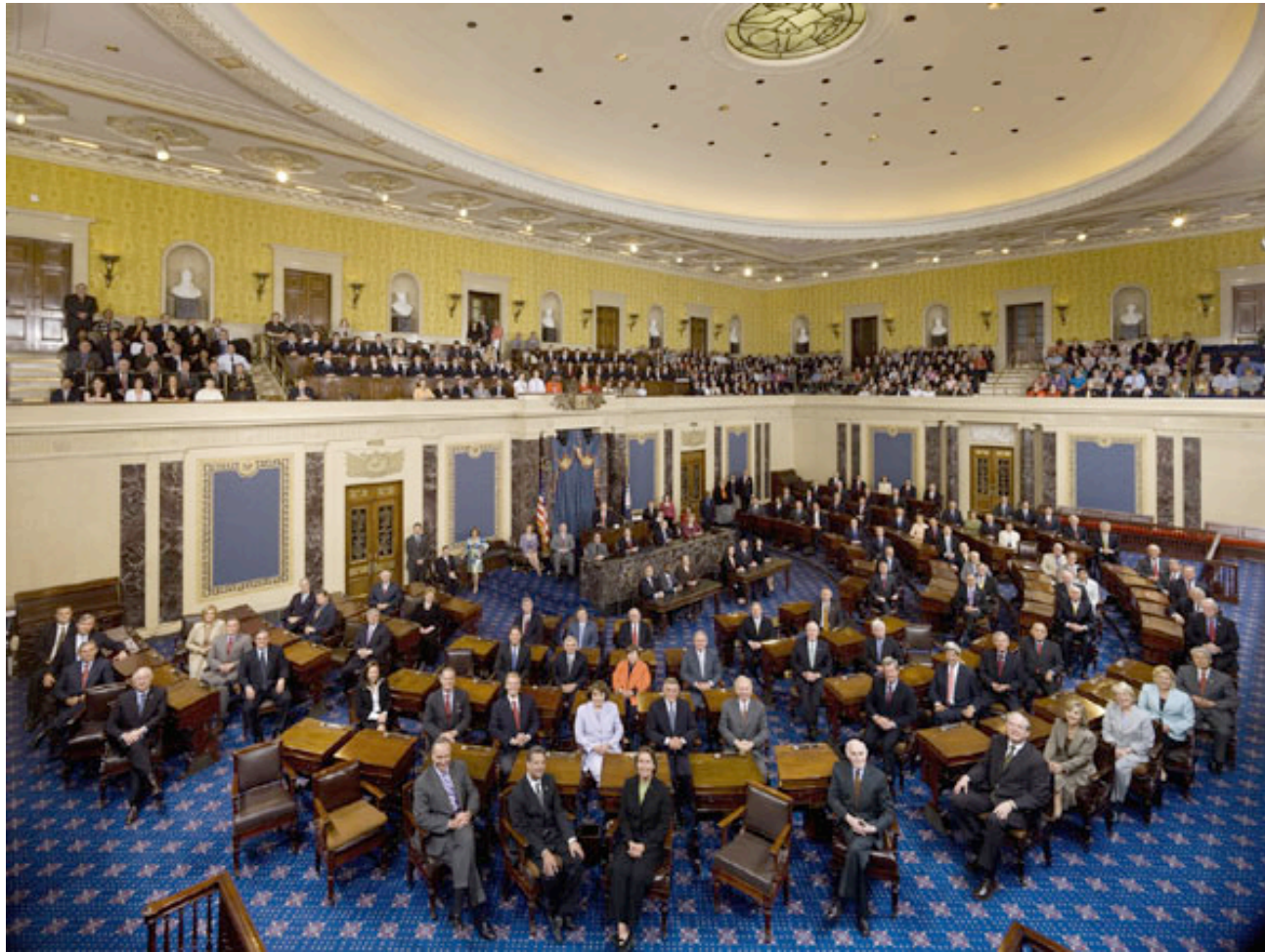


Photo: A class photo of the 110th United States Senate. January, 2007. Released into public domain by the United States federal government.

Senators

- A member of the Senate.
- Example: In addition to being United States *Senators*, many *senators* have also done other important things in their life.

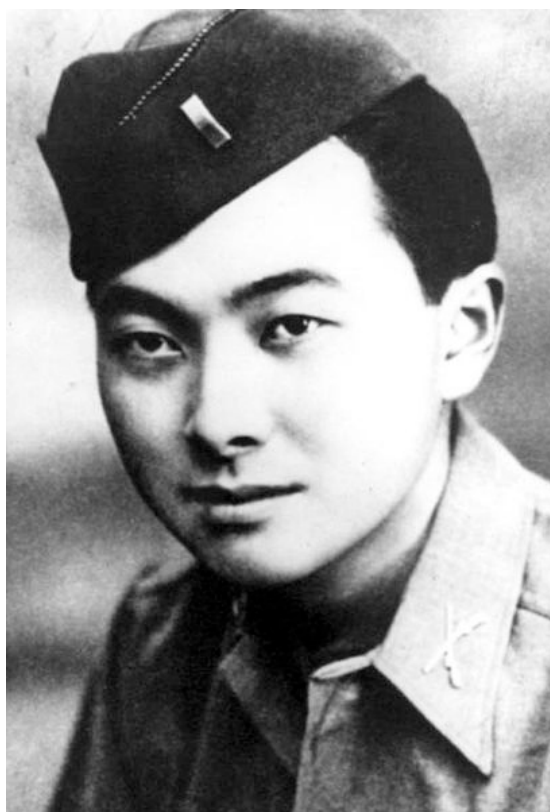


Photo: John Herschel Glenn Jr. is a former American astronaut, Marine Corps fighter pilot, and United States Senator. October, 1998. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautic and Space Agency.

Photo: United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during World War II. Released into public domain by the United States Army.

Photo: Senator John F. Kennedy in his Senate Office, 1959, Washington, D. C., Senate Office Building. Released into public domain as per Instrument of Gift.

Agree

- To have the same opinion as someone else.
- Example: The role of the Supreme Court is to listen to people who do not *agree* and to decide who is right based on the laws of the United States.



Maine



Baseball



Pitcher



Catcher



Umpire



Photo: The batter, catcher, and umpire in a girls softball team. April, 2008. ©2008 by Terren Peterson. Some rights reserved www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0.