

## Chp 12.1: Congress Organizes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

1. When & how often does Congress convene?
2. Why does the House technically have no members until opening day ceremonies?
3. Why is the Senate considered a "continuous body"?
4. How many Senators are up for election every two years?
5. What does the President's State of the Union message usually include?
6. Who presides over the House & who is usually selected?
7. The great amount of power held by the Speaker comes from 2 facts:
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8. What are the 2 main duties of the Speaker?
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9. When must the Speaker vote?
10. Where does the Speaker sit in the line of Presidential succession?
11. Who is the President of the Senate?
12. Is the President of the Senate a member of the Senate?
13. What is the purpose of the President *pro tempore*? Which party is he/she from?
14. What are Floor Leaders and why are they important?
15. What is the function of the majority leader in each house?
16. What does a "whip" do?
17. What is a party caucus?
18. How are committee chairmen chosen & what do they do?
19. Is the seniority rule a written rule & where is it applied most strictly?

## Chp 12.2: Committees in Congress

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do the houses of Congress need committees?
2. What is a **standing committee**?
3. Each **standing committee** examines bills of a similar topic. How many standing committees are there today in the House and in the Senate?
  - House
  - Senate
4. Who assigns bills to a given committee for consideration?
  - In the House:
  - In the Senate:
5. Who holds the majority of the seats on a committee?
6. What does the **House Rules Committee** do?
7. Why is the Rules Committee so powerful?
8. What is a **select committee**?
9. Who appoints members to a select committee?
10. Why are most select committees formed?
11. Give 2 examples of "high profile" select committees:
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12. What is a **joint committee** & what does it do?
13. What is a **conference committee** & what does it do?