

The Judicial Branch: The United States Court System

-Where is it found in the Constitution?/What is its function?

-Article 3

-interpret laws/administer justice

-Power of the Courts

-Cases under the Constitution/laws/and treaties

-base decisions on past precedent

-Precedent: earlier event or action seen as a guide for the future

-Types of Cases

-Criminal

-mostly state level

-federal level if they break federal law: ie. bank robbery

-Civil

-Dispute between two parties

-Questions over law/resolving disputes (over \$75,000)

-Supreme Court

-Decides whether state or federal laws are Constitutional

-This power is not in the Constitution

-Writ of certiorari

-a petition to the Supreme Court if unhappy with a lower court decision

-accepts round 100 out of 7000 per year

-How many justices?

-9 in total

-There is no limit as to how many can be appointed to the Supreme Court in the Constitution

-Quorum of 6 is needed to decide a case

-5 person majority needed to deliver a verdict

-2nd level: Court of Appeals

-13 courts in total across 12 districts

-13th hears specialized cases

-nationwide jurisdiction

-Each court has three justices

-Often the final word on a case

-District Courts

-94 in total

-Deals with federal legal issues

-Each has 1 to 24 judges

-Has some specialized courts

-Such as one to deal with international trade