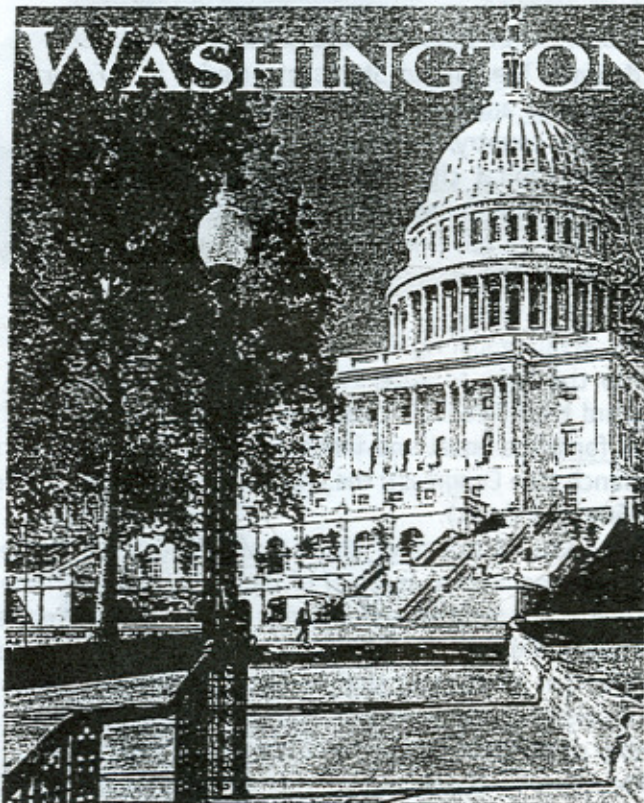


CONGRESS

The American Congress, like most parliaments, consists of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 100 senators, two from each state. Senators are elected for a term of six years. The Senate is presided over by the Vice President of the United States.

The House of Representatives consists of 435 members, who are elected every two years. The number of representatives for each state is based on the population of the state. The House of Representatives is presided over by the Speaker.

Congress meets in two separate chambers in the Capitol Building, in Washington, D.C., and its main function is to make laws which become effective after the President's approval. Congress also has the power to levy and collect taxes, to borrow money for the public treasury, to coin money, to declare war, etc.



Washington, the United States Capitol Building.

STATE GOVERNMENTS

In some ways, the United States is like fifty small countries. Every state has its own governor, its own police force, and its own laws. For example, in some states you can get a driving licence when you are 16, in others you must wait until you are 18. Like the national Government, State governments are divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. With the exception of Nebraska, which has a single legislative body, all states have a bicameral legislature corresponding to the Federal Congress: all have governors as chief executives; all have a capital city; and all have a system of courts with a State Supreme Court. No laws contradicting or violating the Federal Constitution can be adopted. State governments deal with all matters concerning the internal life of each state.

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It may interest you to know that the election of the mayor of a big city is a very important event, and that the Mayor of New York holds an office generally regarded as more important than the governorship of a small state.

MATCHING

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| 1 What are the two houses that make up the American Congress called? | 1 The American, Congress consists of | 1 legislative branch of the US government. |
| 2 How many members are there in the American Senate? | 2 Senators and Representatives hold their meetings | 2 in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. |
| 3 For how long are senators elected in the United States? | 3 The American Congress is the | 3 have written constitutions. |
| 4 How many members are there in the House of Representatives? | 4 All state governments | 4 the Senate and the House of Representatives. |
| 5 How long are American Representatives elected for? | | |
| 6 What is the Capitol Building? In what American city is it located? | | |