

Congress Creates the Federal Court System

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Worksheet 1: Analyzing Sections 1 - 4 of the Federal Judiciary Act (1789)

Group 1 Instructions: Study the following sections of the Federal Judiciary Act and answer the questions as a group. *Source: For the full document visit <https://www.ourdocuments.gov>.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the supreme court of the United States shall consist of a chief justice and five associate justices...

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the United States shall be, and they hereby are divided into thirteen districts, to be limited and called as follows, to wit:

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That there be a court called a District Court, in each of the afore mentioned districts, to consist of one judge, who shall reside in the district for which he is appointed, and shall be called a District Judge, and shall hold annually four sessions...

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the before mentioned districts... shall be divided into three circuits, and be called the eastern, the middle, and the southern circuit... and that there shall be held annually in each district of said circuits, two courts, which shall be called Circuit Courts, and shall consist of any two justices of the Supreme Court, and the district judge of such districts, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum...

Questions:

1. How many justices will serve on the U. S. Supreme Court?
2. How many Federal judicial circuits will there be?
3. How many sessions of the Federal circuit court will be held each year?
4. Who are the judges who serve on the Federal circuit court, according to this act?
5. How many Federal district courts will there be?
6. How often will district courts meet?

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