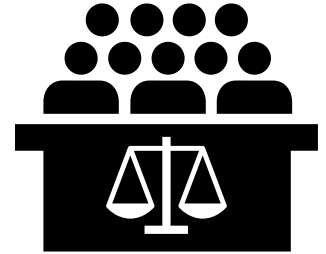


NAME:

DATE:



OUR COURTS: THE BEDROCK OF DEMOCRACY



Instructions: Read the sentences below and then write “True” or “False” at the bottom in the numbered blank that corresponds with the sentence.

Questions

1. There are four branches of government.
2. The branches of government share power under a system of checks and balances.
3. The Supreme Court has the final word on whether a president’s actions are constitutional.
4. The Supreme Court does not have the final word on whether a legislature’s actions are constitutional.
5. A 5-4 ruling by the Supreme Court is considered law and must be followed.
6. The United States is a system of self-government.
7. Our courts have less power than the president or Congress.
8. Jurors must have special qualifications and possess special knowledge to serve on a jury.
9. In a trial, jurors weigh the evidence, decide who is telling the truth, and apply the facts to the law.
10. The jury system keeps the judiciary connected to the people and communities it serves.

Your answers

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

ANSWER KEY

- 1. False. There are three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judiciary.**
- 2. True. The Founders devised a balanced system of government where the different branches keep each other from abusing their power, helping to protect the people and keep them free.**
- 3. True.**
- 4. False.**
- 5. True.**
- 6. True. We rule ourselves and govern our own affairs. Our leaders are elected by the people.**
- 7. False. The judiciary is a co-equal branch of government.**
- 8. False. Jurors are everyday citizens who come from the community. For example, you do not have to graduate from college or own a home to serve on a jury. The right to trial by jury is guaranteed in Article III of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (namely, the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendments).**
- 9. True. Jurors are fact finders and apply the facts to the law by answering questions in a document known as the “charge” or “instructions.” This document is given to them by the trial judge.**
- 10. True. Jury service is a way for citizens to participate directly in government, applying the law fairly in order to resolve disputes peacefully and protect their communities.**