

Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

The Structure of Congress

Lesson 4 *Congressional Committees*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Purpose of Committees

- A. The _____ system allows members of Congress to divide their work among smaller groups, where lawmakers can become specialists on the _____ that their committees consider.
- B. Committees take the huge number of _____ introduced, choose the ones they will work on, resolve disagreements, and decide which will have a chance to become law.
- C. Public _____ and investigations by committees help inform the public about key problems and issues facing the nation.

II. Kinds of Committees

- A. Both the House and the Senate have _____, which continue from one legislative session to the next and are controlled by the majority party.
- B. _____ specialize in one aspect of the standing committee's responsibilities, and continue from one legislative session to the next.
- C. Temporary, or _____, study one specific issue and report their findings to the Senate or the House.
- D. _____ are composed of members from both the House and the Senate and, although they study a topic or bill and report back to the House or the Senate about it, they have no _____ to work on bills or to propose laws.
- E. When the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, a _____ is created to resolve differences between the two versions and present both houses with a compromise bill.

