### ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
How does the process of lawmaking assist and impede the functioning of the legislative branch?

### PROCEDURES:

**Day One** - Complete the reading from "Powers of Congress" and answer the five questions that follow.

**Day Two** - View the diagram "How a Bill Becomes a Law" and answer the accompanying seven questions that go with it.

**Day Three** - Complete the reading on Congress's response to the Covid-19 outbreak and answer the writing prompt.

### WORK TO BE RETURNED:
- **Assignment #1** - Powers of Congress
- **Assignment #2** - How a Bill Becomes a Law
- **Assignment #3** - General Welfare Response

### RESOURCES:
- Powers of Congress reading
- How a Bill Becomes a Law diagram
- Newspaper article from The Guardian

### TIME ALLOCATED:
- Assignment #1 - 15 minutes
- Assignment #2 - 10 minutes
- Assignment #3 - 35 minutes
The Legislative Branch

Powers of Congress

The Constitution gives the Congress (the House and the Senate) certain specific powers. Among those listed are the powers to tax, borrow money, regulate commerce (trade) and naturalization (the process by which one can become a United States citizen). Also included are the powers to coin money, establish a system of weights and measurements, establish a post office, declare war and provide a military. These are many of the important powers specifically granted to the Congress.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 is very important to the Congress. It is known as the "elastic clause". This gives Congress the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper" to carry out its responsibilities.

The powers given to Congress can be broken down into three areas: enumerated powers, implied powers and inherent powers. Enumerated powers are powers specifically given to the Congress by the Constitution. They are written. An example would be the power to declare war. Implied powers are powers given to the Congress that are general. They are stated, but not enough information is given in the Constitution about details.

An example would be:
The Constitution in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 states: "To establish post offices and post roads." Obviously, more is needed to run the post office then just roads; there are the mail carriers, security and buildings. The Constitution assumes that the Congress will take care of these matters too. Inherent powers are unlisted powers that a government must have simply because it exists as a government and needs to run its affairs smoothly. The best example of this is the need to conduct foreign affairs. The Constitution does not discuss foreign affairs, but because the United States is a country we must deal with foreign countries diplomatically.

Answer the following questions.

1. List and describe four powers given to the Congress.

2. What is the "elastic clause?"
3. Define enumerated powers and give an example.

4. Define implied powers and give an example.

5. Explain these three powers:
   - Delegated powers:
   - Concurrent Powers:
   - Reserved Powers:

Assignment #2 - The Lawmaking Process- How A Bill Becomes a Law (see last page)

Directions: The lawmaking process can be long and complex. Use the diagram below to answer the questions that follow.

1. Where can bills be proposed?

2. Where must money bills originate?

3. What happens once a bill is introduced?

4. List at least 4 different people or groups involved in the lawmaking process.

5. What happens to a bill if there are differences between the House and Senate bill?

6. What is the final step in the lawmaking process?
Assignment #3

Directions: Respond to the following prompt:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution charges Congress with providing for the General Welfare of the United States. After reading the article below, explain how Congress is attempting to fulfill that duty in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. Then, identify two additional steps you believe Congress should take in responding to the current crisis.

- Write at least two paragraphs

US Senate Passes Historic Relief Package

March 25, 2020

The US Senate has passed a $2.2 trillion emergency relief package as the coronavirus pandemic devastates the economy, marking the biggest rescue deal of its kind in US history.

“This is a strange and evil disease,” said the Senate minority leader, Chuck Schumer, ahead of the vote. “When we pass this bill, instead of hugging each other, we’ll wave from a distance.”

The bill would provide up to $1,200 in direct relief for American adults, create a $500 billion lending program for businesses, cities and states and a $367 billion fund for small businesses. The plan also provides $130 billion to hospitals and expands unemployment insurance.

Senators overwhelmingly voted to pass the legislation, approving it 96-0.

The House is expected to vote on the bill on Friday. “We are working to ensure that those who are unable to return to Washington will be able to express their views on this legislation remotely,” said the House majority leader, Steny Hoyer, in a statement.

Lawmakers scrambled on Wednesday to smooth over snags as they rushed to pass the legislation, which provides direct payments to American families, and loans and grants to businesses. A last-minute amendment, from Republican senators who complained that the bill would incentivize workers to collect unemployment payments rather than take a job, failed.

After casting her vote Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat of Massachusetts, said: “This is not the bill I wanted, but its immediate investments are vital.” “They are also insufficient,” she added. “We will need to do more – and soon.”

McConnell similarly reflected on the compromises that Republicans and Democrats made to arrive at the deal. “It’s been a long, hard road, with a remarkable number of twists and turns,” he said. “But for the sake of millions of Americans, it will be worth it. It will be worth it to get help to millions of small businesses and save tens of millions of jobs.”

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Directions: Use the diagram below to answer the questions that follow.

1. Where can bills be proposed?
2. Where must money bills originate?
3. What happens once a bill is introduced?
4. List at least 4 different people involved in the law making process.
5. What happens to a bill if there are two different versions?
6. What is the final step in the Law making process?
7. Describe the role of citizens in the law making process.

Source: SIRS Knowledge Source – Interactive Citizenship