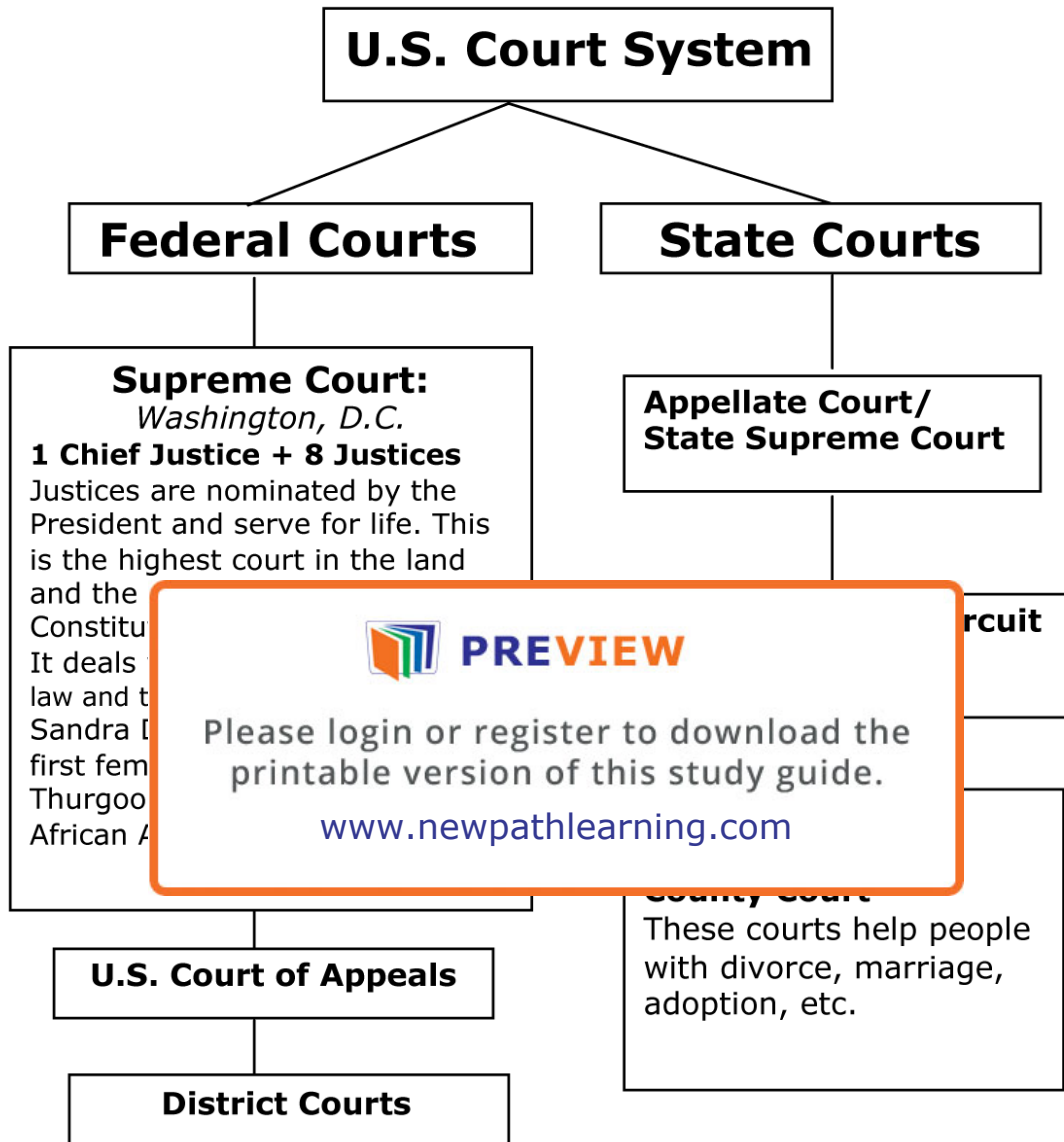



THE U.S. COURT SYSTEM



 **PREVIEW**
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The U.S. has a court system (judicial branch) for many reasons:

- To decide the meaning of laws
- To punish criminals
- To keep the other branches of government in check
- To help people with things like marriage, adoption, divorce, citizenship, bankruptcy, discrimination
- To make sure that the Constitution is being followed

Every U.S. citizen has the opportunity to serve the country through **jury duty**. Many court decisions are made by a jury. A **jury** is a group of people who listen to evidence in a trial and decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty. This is called giving a **verdict**.

Try This!


Circle examples of state courts.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| U.S. Supreme Court | County Court | Circuit Court |
| Traffic Court | U.S. District Court | Appellate Court |

Circle the names of 2 important Supreme Court Justices.

George Washington Marshall

Sandra Day O'Connor

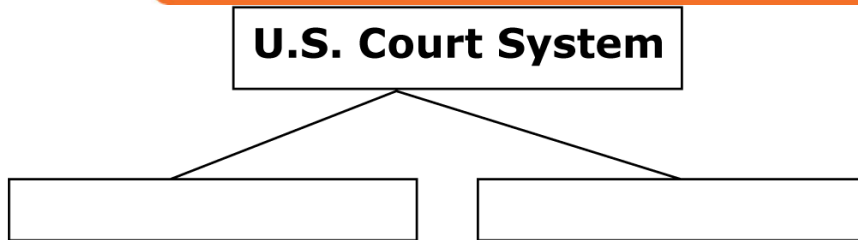


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Fill in the



All of the following are reasons we have a court except for one. Put an X through the option that is not a reason we have a court system.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| punish criminals | help keep the Constitution |
| elect the President | deal with bankruptcy |
| help with divorce | decide what laws mean |