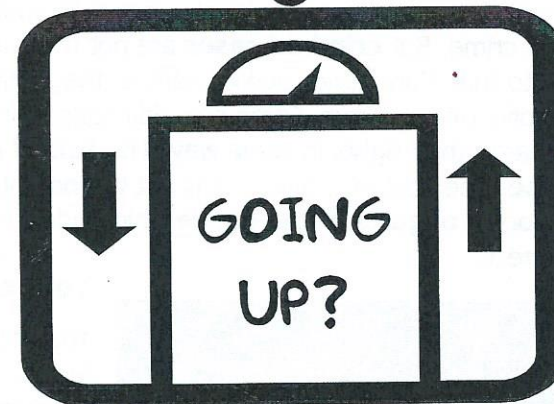
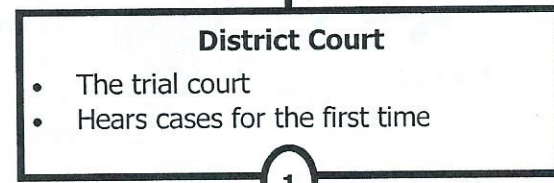
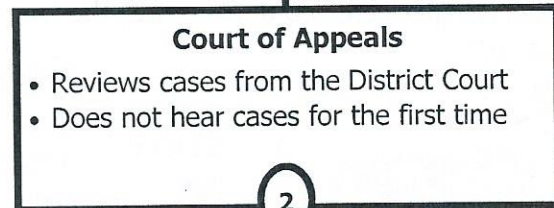
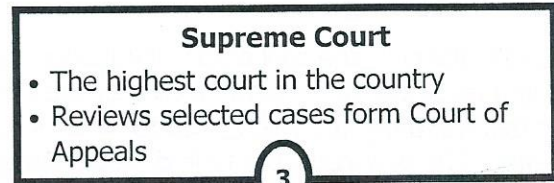
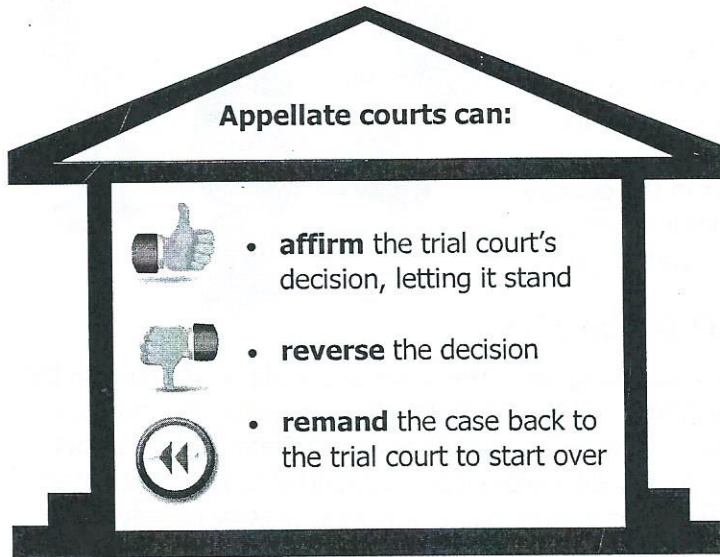


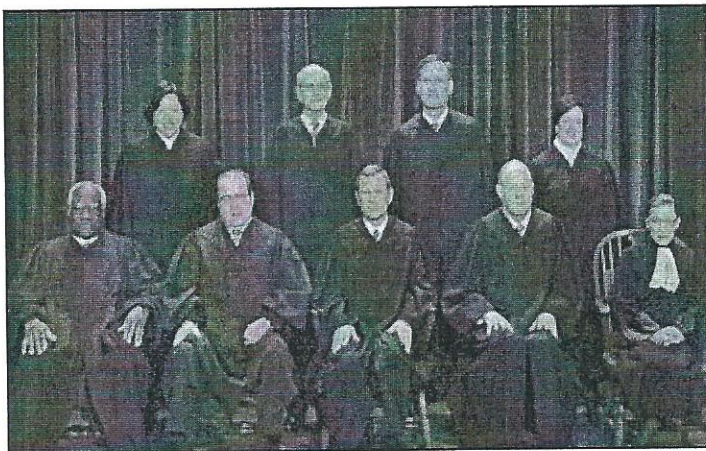
# Judicial Branch in a Flash

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Who Decides?

While a trial court only has one judge, most Court of Appeals cases are heard by a three-judge **panel**. There is never a jury. The three judges review the case to see if the trial court made a mistake. For the losing side in the Court of Appeals, there is one more chance: the Supreme Court, which is the highest court. There, a panel of nine justices reviews the case. (State supreme courts often have fewer justices.) The Supreme Court gets to choose which cases it wants to hear, and it doesn't choose very many!



The nine U.S. Supreme Court Justices in 2011.

## And That's Final!

Often, cases that make it to the Supreme Court are disputes about whether a law goes against the Constitution. Once the Supreme Court has struck down a law that is unconstitutional, that's it! Only the Court itself can reverse that decision. This power of deciding what is constitutional is called **judicial review**. The U.S. Supreme Court has this power over federal laws. State supreme courts have this power over state laws.