

Name _____

The Mighty Federal Courts: Guardians of Justice in the Judicial Branch

Short Answer Key

1. Appellate jurisdiction refers to a court's authority to review decisions made by lower courts. It is important because it allows higher courts to correct errors and ensure consistent application of the law.
2. Federal courts serve as a check on the legislative and executive branches by interpreting the Constitution and laws, ensuring that they comply with the principles of the Constitution.
3. The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest federal court and has the authority to make final decisions on federal laws and the Constitution. Its decisions set legal precedents that guide lower courts and have a lasting impact on U.S. law.
4. Appointing federal judges for life ensures their independence from political pressures, allowing them to make impartial decisions based on the law without fear of losing their positions.
5. Example: A copyright infringement case involving a dispute between a famous author and a publishing company. The author claims that the publishing company used their work without permission, leading to a legal dispute over intellectual property rights.

