

Name _____

The Senate: Shaping Laws for Our Nation

Short Answer Key

1. The Senate ratifies international treaties and agreements through a two-thirds majority vote, providing a critical check on the President's authority in foreign affairs.
2. The Senate contributes to the system of checks and balances by providing oversight, confirming appointments, and conducting impeachment trials, ensuring that no single branch of government accumulates too much power.
3. The Senate plays a role in confirming presidential appointments, ensuring that individuals nominated for important positions are qualified and suitable for their roles. This process maintains accountability and prevents unchecked executive authority.
4. The primary difference in representation between the House of Representatives and the Senate is that the House is based on population, with each state having a varying number of representatives, while the Senate provides equal representation, with each state having two Senators.
5. The principle of equal representation in the Senate is important for smaller states because it ensures that their voices are heard and their interests are considered in the legislative process, preventing larger states from dominating.

