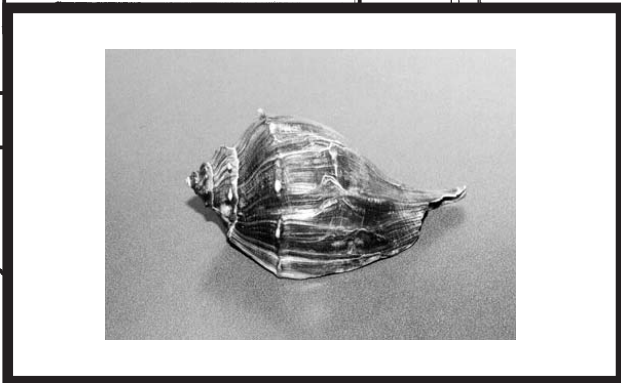
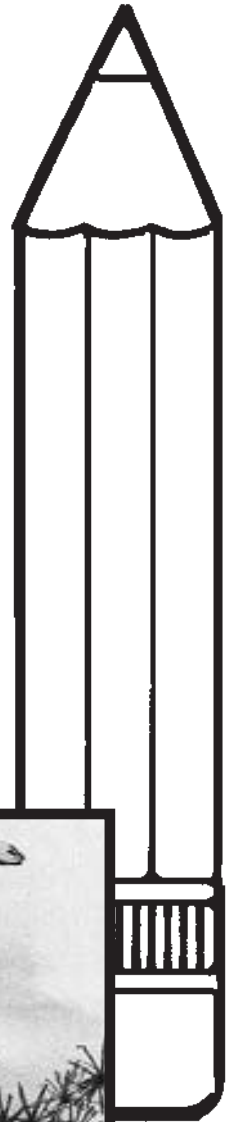
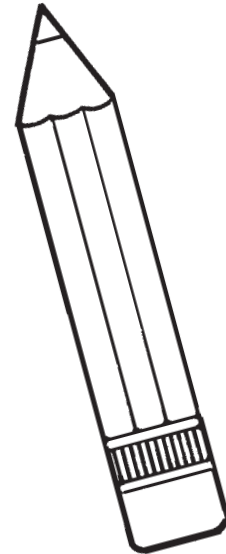
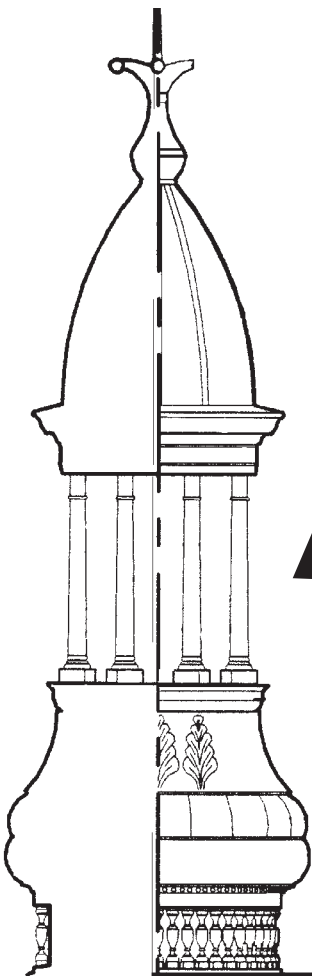


To save your answers, download  
and save this PDF to your computer.

# New Jersey State House Activity Book





*"Hi Kids! My name is Bill. What's your name?"*

*Fill in the information below and join me in learning about a very special building – our state capitol! Find out what happens here and how a bill becomes a law.*

*Discover fun facts and play games while you learn.*

*Best of all, find out ways you can play a part in government!"*

# My Activity Book

**This book belongs to:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of my school:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My teacher's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Legislative District Number is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My State Senator is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My General Assembly Members are:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Contents

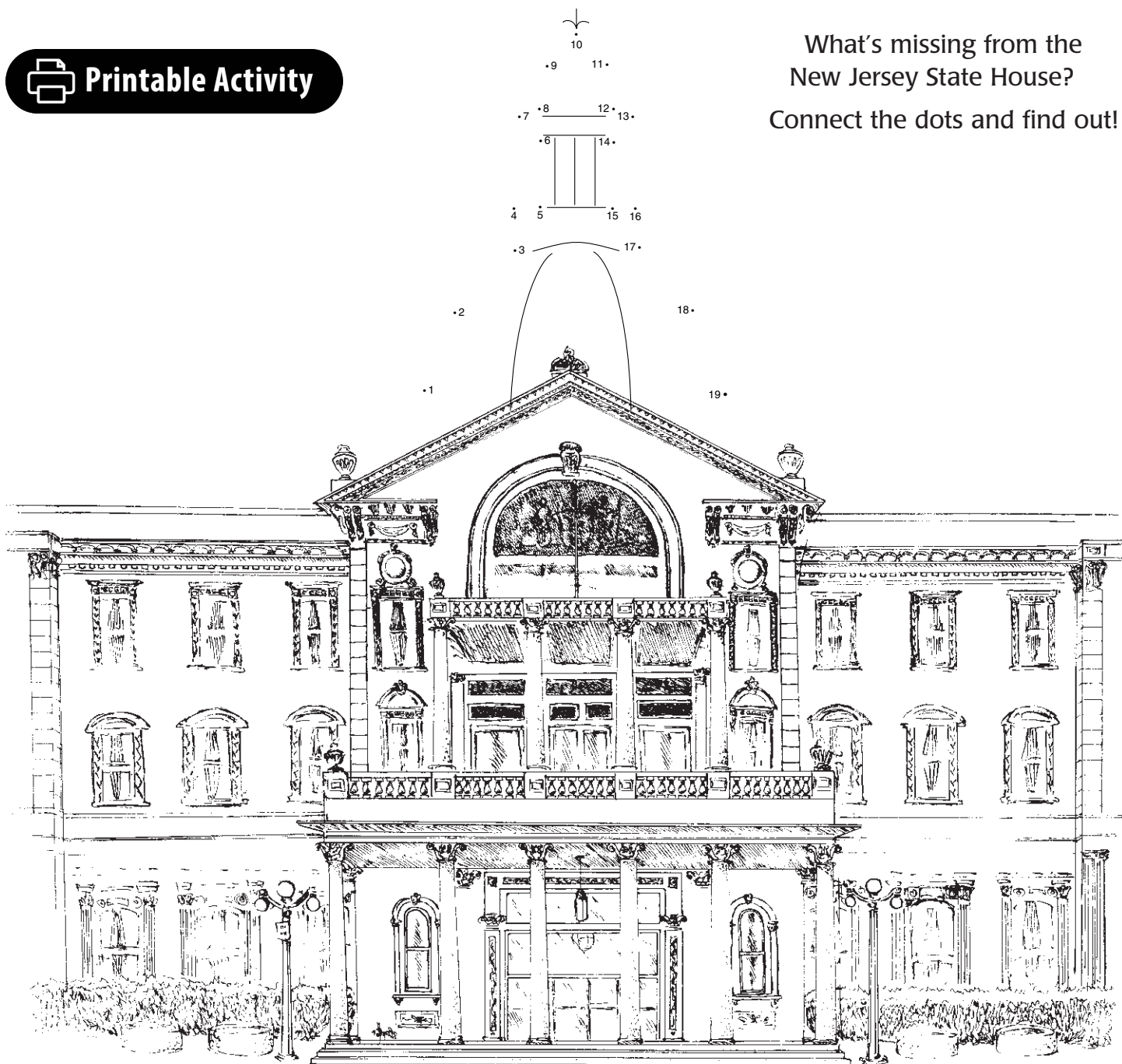
The New Jersey State House.....	2
Roaming the Dome .....	3
Our State Seal .....	4
State Symbols .....	5
Color the Carpet .....	6
Our State Map.....	8
County Questions .....	9
Know Your Legislature .....	10
How Laws are Made .....	12
Capitol Crossword.....	14
Laws About Things .....	15
The Language of Lawmakers.....	16
About Our Government .....	17
Help Bill Become Law.....	18
Get Involved! .....	19
Become a Legislator .....	20
Answer Pages .....	21

# The New Jersey State House



Printable Activity

What's missing from the New Jersey State House?  
Connect the dots and find out!



**T**he State House was originally built in 1792 by Jonathan Doane. The building looked very different from the State House of today. It was a simple rectangular building of rubblestone with a bell tower. According to legend, the bell was rung to call people to the State House.

As the government's duties grew, so did the State House. Many additions were made over the years. Today, the Governor's offices are in the front of the building while the Legislature works in the restored rear wings.

# Roaming the Dome

**T**he dome is a well-known symbol of our state government. Over the years, the dome became damaged and repair was needed. The state recently restored the dome to its former glory. See if you can answer these dome questions.

1. The Dome ceiling is 105 feet above the floor of the Rotunda. If all the students in a class are 5 feet tall, how many students would you need to stand on top of each other in order to touch the ceiling?

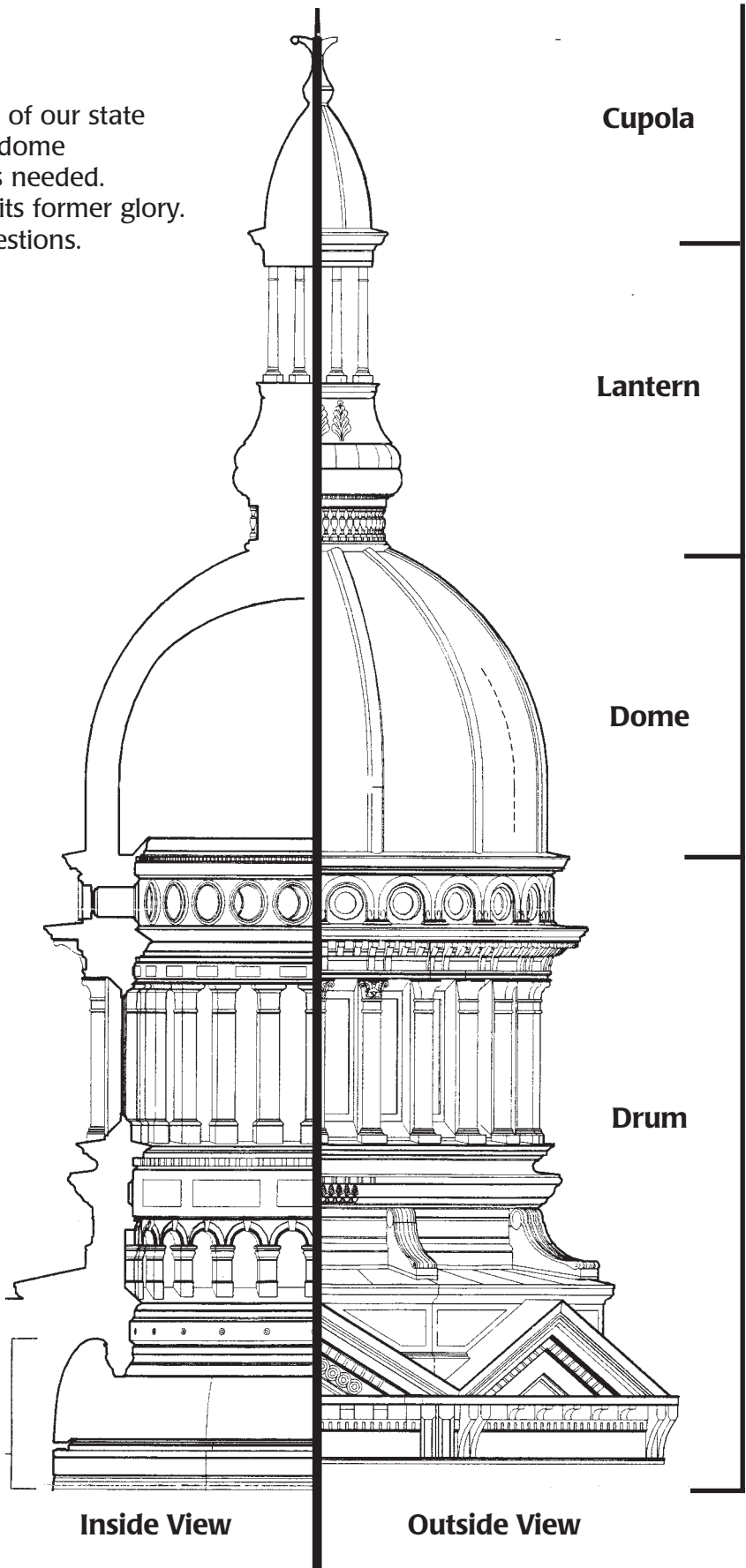
\_\_\_\_\_

2. School children helped raise about \$40,000 for the repairs. This money was used to replace the gold leafing on the Dome. Exactly how many dimes were collected to raise this money?

\_\_\_\_\_

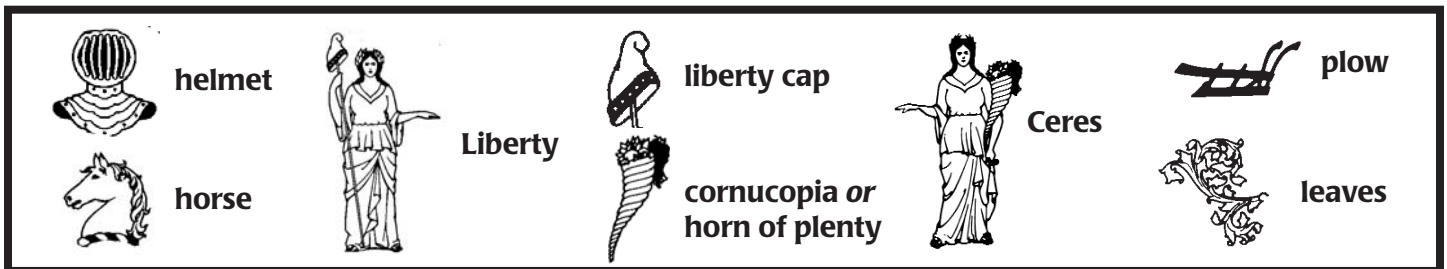
3. It takes 4 pieces of gold leaf to cover 1 square foot of the dome. If the dome is 3,000 square feet, how many pieces of gold leaf are needed to cover the entire dome?

\_\_\_\_\_



(answers on page 21)

# Our State Seal



**N**ew Jersey's State Seal was designed by Pierre Eugène Du Simitière for our new state in the year 1777. Each of the Seal's symbols stands for something important about New Jersey.

The helmet with its crest of a horse's head indicates that New Jersey is a sovereign State – meaning that we make laws for ourselves.

The woman on the left is Liberty. Liberty means freedom. She holds a staff topped by a liberty cap, an important symbol of freedom. The woman on the right is the Roman goddess Ceres, who represents agriculture and prosperity. She grasps a cornucopia or "horn of plenty."

The three horse-drawn plows on the shield, the horse's head on the helmet and the swirls of leaves also symbolize New Jersey's farming tradition. The scroll at the bottom bears the motto

"L\_\_\_\_\_ and P\_\_\_\_\_" and the date \_\_\_\_\_, the year New Jersey became a state.

(answers on page 21)

# State Symbols

Our state has several official symbols that represent many of the things that are special about New Jersey. The Legislature chose the first official symbol, the state flower (the violet), in 1913. Since then, eight more symbols have been added.

Draw lines to connect the picture of each symbol to its name. The year after each name tells you when the New Jersey Legislature adopted the symbol. (answers on page 21)

1. Violet,  
State Flower, 1913

2. Eastern Goldfinch,  
State Bird, 1935

3. Red Oak,  
State Tree, 1950

4. Honey Bee,  
State Insect, 1974

5. Horse,  
State Animal, 1977

6. Square Dance,  
State Folk Dance, 1983

7. Hadrosaurus Foulkii,  
State Dinosaur, 1991

8. Brook Trout,  
State Fish, 1991

9. Knobbed Whelk,  
State Shell, 1995

10. Blueberry,  
State Fruit, 2004

A



B



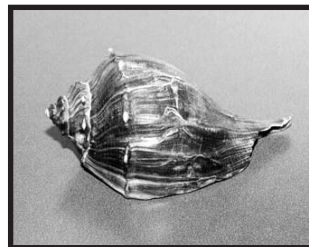
D



C



E



F



G



H



I



J



# Color the Carpet

**H**ere is a drawing of part of the carpet that covers the floor of the General Assembly chamber in the State House. It was designed by artists and made by skilled workers for our capitol. The rug contains pictures of some of New Jersey's important symbols.

Can you identify each of the items and color them appropriately?

Fill in the blank spaces below to help you identify the state symbols, then use the color guide to help you choose the right colors for your picture of this carpet.

*(answers on page 21)*

This mighty tree has acorns and green leaves that turn red in the fall:

r \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_

This state bird is the same color as the gilded State House dome:

g \_\_\_\_\_

This state insect uses flowers to make a sweet, sticky syrup:

h \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_

Spring is the time to see this small purple flower:

v \_\_\_\_\_

## Color Codes

B	=	Blue
G	=	Green
Bk	=	Black
V	=	Violet
Br	=	Brown
Y	=	Yellow

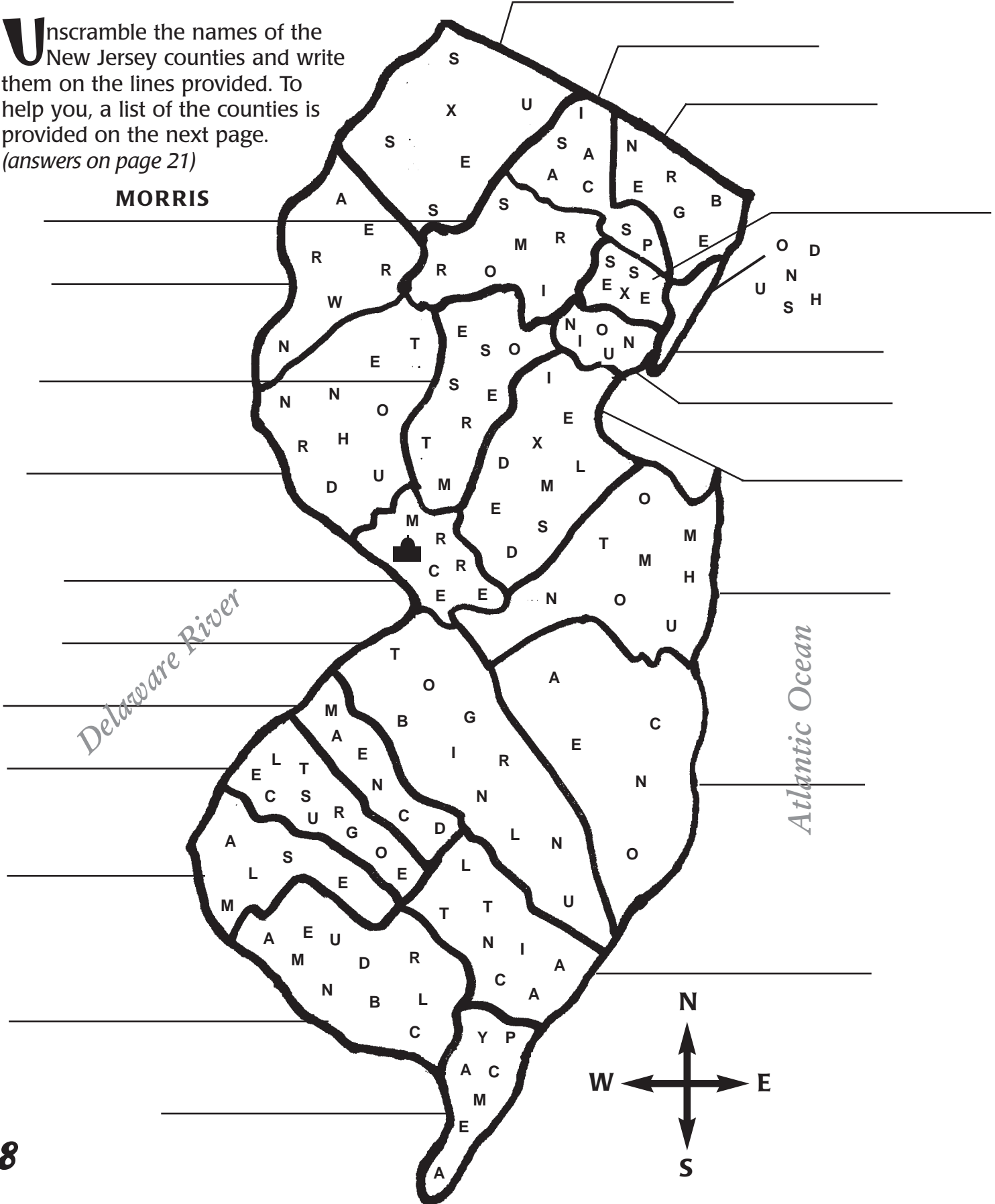




# Our State Map

Unscramble the names of the New Jersey counties and write them on the lines provided. To help you, a list of the counties is provided on the next page. (answers on page 21)

**MORRIS**



# County Questions

ATLANTIC  
BERGEN  
BURLINGTON  
CAMDEN  
CAPE MAY  
CUMBERLAND  
ESSEX

GLOUCESTER  
HUDSON  
HUNTERDON  
MERCER  
MIDDLESEX  
MONMOUTH  
MORRIS

OCEAN  
PASSAIC  
SALEM  
SOMERSET  
SUSSEX  
UNION  
WARREN

1. How many counties are there in New Jersey? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Our state capitol is located in the county of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In what county do you live? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many counties border the Delaware River? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many counties border the Eastern side of the State? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which two counties border both the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware River? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the northernmost county? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the southernmost county? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many counties are entirely surrounded by other counties? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which two counties were named for the body of water that they border? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(answers on page 21)

## Did you know...

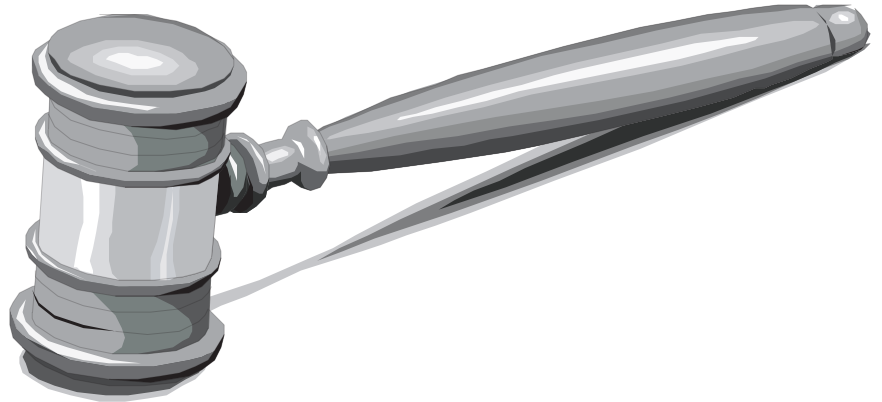
- ...the name "Passaic" comes from a Native American language meaning "valley" or "place where land splits"?
- ...Mercer and Warren Counties were named for famous Revolutionary War generals?
- ...there were only 13 counties in New Jersey before 1776?
- ...Trenton was originally selected as the capital of the United States in 1784?
- ...Hudson County was named for the famous explorer Henry Hudson?

# Know Your Legislature

## What is the Legislature?

The Legislature is the branch of government that makes new laws and changes old ones.

Our State Legislature makes laws only for New Jersey. It is made up of 120 members elected from 40 regions within the state called legislative districts. These men and women represent the views and concerns of the people in their parts of the state.



## What are Houses?

The New Jersey Legislature is divided into two parts, called "Houses." The Houses of the New Jersey Legislature are the Senate and the General Assembly. There are 40 Senators and 80 General Assembly members who are elected by the voters in their legislative districts.

A legislature that consists of two houses is called "bicameral." One state in our country has only one lawmaking unit, which means its legislature is "unicameral." Can you name the state?

---

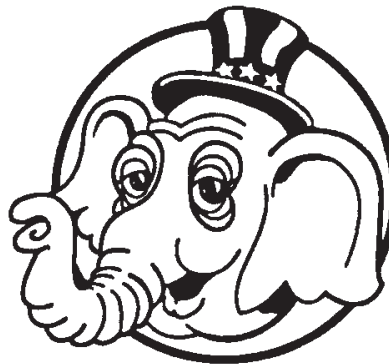
## What are political parties?

The members of the two Houses are divided into groups or teams, called "political parties." The two major parties are the Democrats and the Republicans. The group having the largest number of members is called the "majority party." The other group is the "minority party."

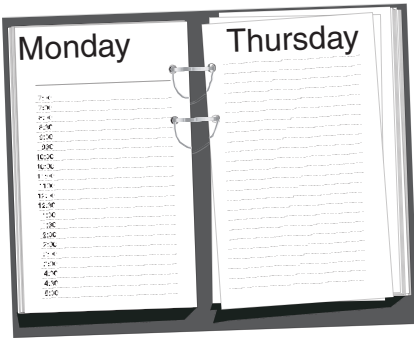
The Democratic Party mascot is the donkey.



The Republican Party mascot is the elephant.



# Know Your Legislature

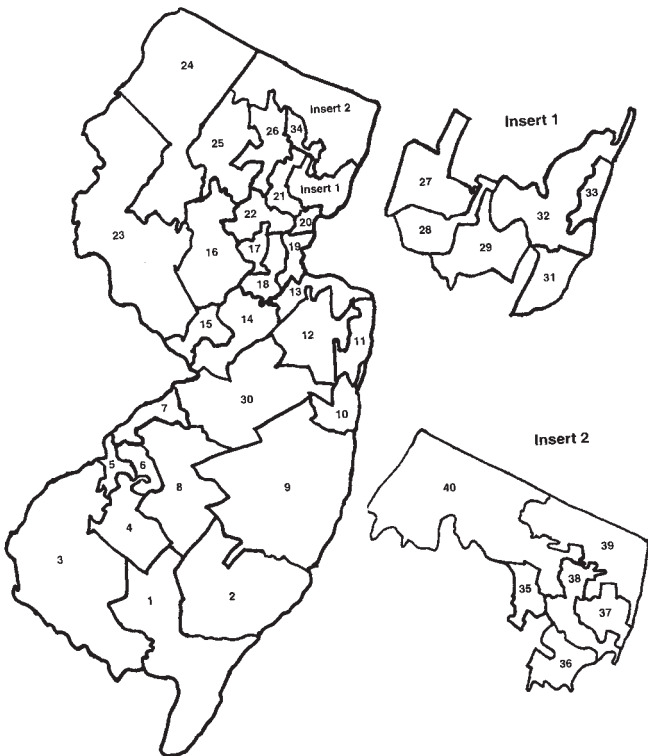
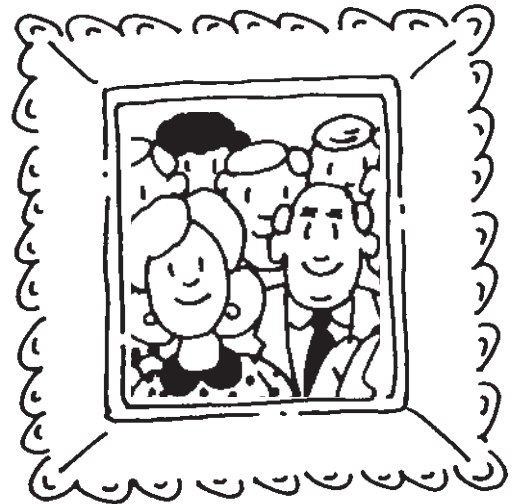


## When does our Legislature meet?

The Houses usually meet on Mondays and Thursdays all year long. Meetings to vote on proposed laws, called "bills," are "voting sessions." The Legislature meets in the State House in Trenton, New Jersey's capital city. Most years, both Houses take a break or "recess" during July and August.

## Who can be a legislator?

A State Senator must be at least 30 years old and must have lived in New Jersey for at least four years. A member of the General Assembly must be at least 21 years old and must have lived in the state for at least two years. Both must live in their legislative districts for one year before the election.



## What are legislative districts?

New Jersey is divided into 40 regions called legislative districts. The residents of each district elect one Senator and two General Assembly members. Each legislative district has about the same number of people in it, so each legislator represents about the same number of people.

New district boundary lines are drawn every 10 years after an official count called a "census" has been taken of the people and where they live. The shapes of the districts may be changed to reflect changes in the population. City districts are usually small because many people live in a small area. Suburban and rural legislative districts may be very large, which shows residents live farther apart.

# Bill's Journey to

1



Any Senator or General Assembly member may propose or sponsor a new law. Ideas for laws can come from many sources, such as citizens, interest groups, public officials or the Governor.

2



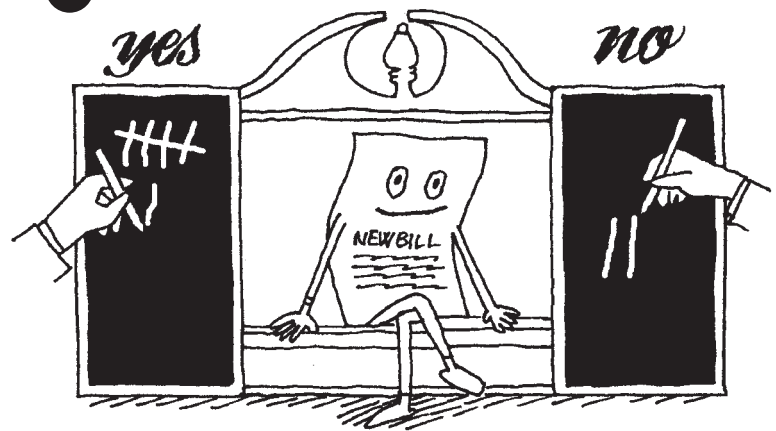
At the legislator's direction, the idea is written as a bill. The legislator may ask other legislators to become co-sponsors.

5



If the committee approves the bill, it is reported back to the House where it began, and its title is read again. This is the bill's second reading.

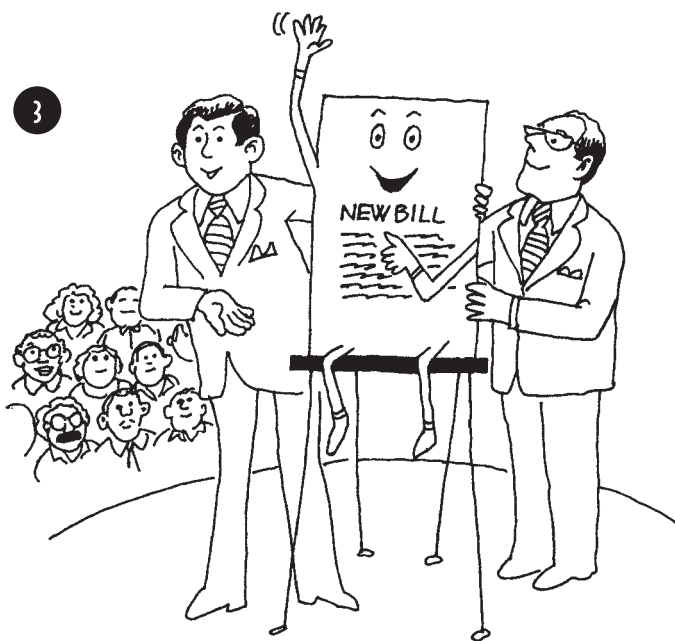
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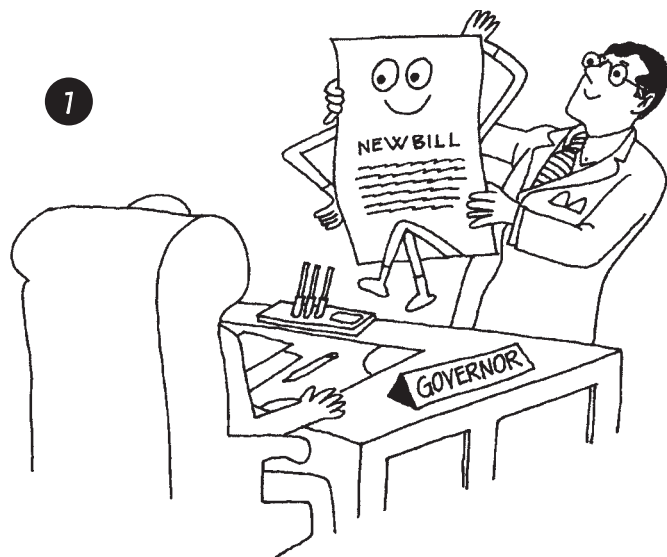
When scheduled by the Senate President or General Assembly Speaker, the bill's title is read for the third time, and it is debated and voted on.

A bill passes if it receives a majority of votes (at least 21 in the Senate or 41 in the General Assembly).

# Becoming a Law



The bill is introduced when the Senate Secretary or General Assembly Clerk reads the bill's number, sponsor and title aloud during a legislative session.



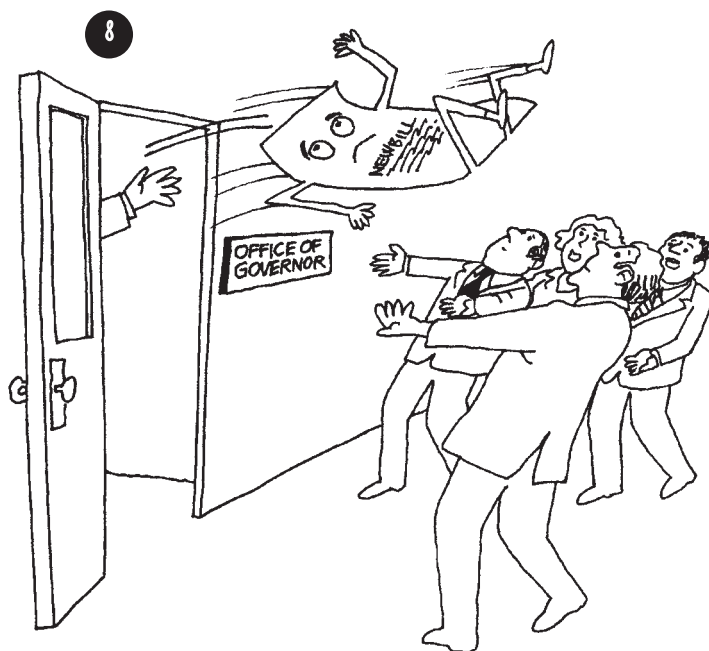
The bill follows a similar path of first reading, committee consideration, second reading, third reading and final passage in the second House.

After both Houses agree on the bill, it is sent to the Governor.  
In most cases, the bill becomes law when signed by the Governor.



The bill is usually sent to a committee which studies it and makes changes, if needed.  
These changes are called amendments.

Committees have open meetings where the public may speak about the bill.



If the Governor rejects the bill, it is called a veto.

Sometimes, the Governor will ask the Legislature to make changes to the bill.

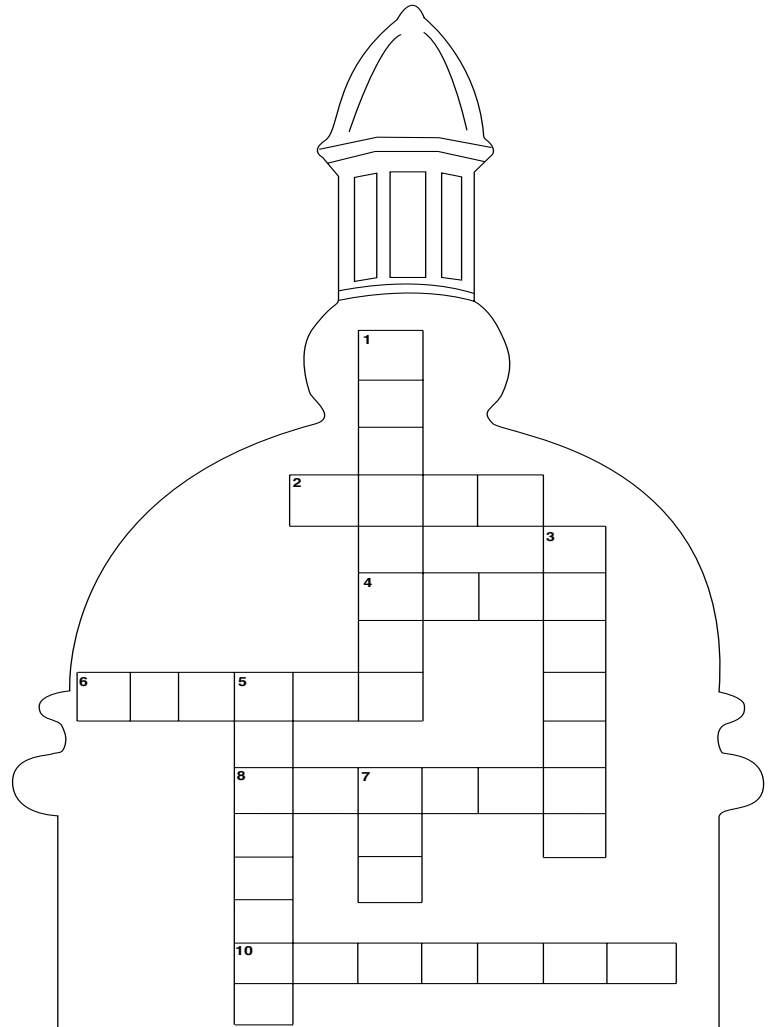
The Legislature may make the Governor's changes.

It is also possible for the Legislature to pass the vetoed bill in its original form with a 2/3 majority vote in both Houses. This is called overriding the veto.

# Capitol Crossword

Choose the right word to complete each sentence and then use the words to fill in the puzzle. (answers on page 21)

**Assembly**  
**bill**  
**Capitol**  
**district**  
**elected**  
**Monday**  
**nay**  
**Senate**  
**veto**



- Across:**
- 2. When the Governor rejects a bill, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4. A \_\_\_\_\_ that is signed by the Governor becomes a law.
  - 6. The Legislature will typically meet on \_\_\_\_\_ and Thursday of each week.
  - 8. A Senator is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the building where our Governor and Legislature work.

- Down:**
- 1. The General \_\_\_\_\_ is one House of our Legislature.
  - 3. Members of the Legislature are \_\_\_\_\_ by the citizens of the state.
  - 5. Each \_\_\_\_\_ is represented by one Senator and two members of the General Assembly.
  - 7. When voting, the legislators vote yea for yes and \_\_\_\_\_ for no.



# Laws About Things

All of us are affected by laws, and the New Jersey Legislature makes laws about many things. Some may be familiar to you and others may be a surprise.

The list below names a few things that are affected by our state laws. Find all the words in the puzzle. (Hint: Some of the words may appear backwards and diagonally. Answers on page 22.)

helmet

jet ski

seafood

taxes

horses

museum

cars

tractors

beach

train

music

water

H	F	B	H	A	I	S	O	T	C
Q	E	K	I	O	N	I	A	R	T
I	R	L	A	A	R	Y	E	M	R
K	C	E	M	T	A	S	B	U	A
S	I	Z	T	E	E	V	E	E	C
T	S	E	X	A	T	R	A	S	T
E	U	X	F	B	W	E	C	U	O
J	M	O	K	I	N	T	H	M	R
A	O	H	C	G	C	A	R	S	S
D	P	J	M	U	S	N	P	M	I

How many of these laws affect you? List them below.



---

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# The Language of Lawmakers

## Definitions

**AMEND:** To change a bill.

**Bill:** An idea for a new law.

**Committee:** Group which is asked to do a special job. For example, legislative committees study suggestions for new laws.

**Constituents:** Members of a group represented by an elected official.

**Debate:** People discuss varying opinions on an issue.

**Law:** A rule that all people of a society must obey.

**Legislator:** An elected government representative who speaks for others.

**Vote:** To signal a choice.

**F**ind out what all the buzz was about when a group of second-grade students wanted New Jersey to have a state bug. Use the words to the left to fill in the blanks and finish the story. (answers on page 22)



Mrs. Zuzov always encouraged her students to take an interest in government. In 1973, her second-grade class at Sunnybrae School had been reading about how Maryland had the butterfly as its state bug. The students decided that New Jersey should have one also, so they wrote a letter to Assemblyman Francis McManimon, a 1. \_\_\_\_\_ from their district, telling him about their idea. Assemblyman McManimon visited his young 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to hear more about their idea. There were many suggestions about which bug to select, so with the help of the Assemblyman the students made a compromise and decided that the Honey Bee would be their choice. He then promised the students that if he was reelected, he would introduce a 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to the Legislature proposing the Honey Bee as the State Bug.



After the Assemblyman won reelection, the students contacted him again and reminded him of his promise. The students visited the State House several times to check on the progress of their idea. A decision was made by the State Government 4. \_\_\_\_\_ to move the bill to the Assembly for 5. \_\_\_\_\_. During the Assembly's discussion, the Legislators chose to 6. \_\_\_\_\_ the bill by changing the name of it from "State Bug" to "State Insect." When the discussions were finished, the Legislators took a 7. \_\_\_\_\_ to decide if the bill would move on to the Governor.

On July 20, 1974, Governor Brendan Byrne, surrounded by teachers, parents and students dressed in bee costumes, signed the bill into 8. \_\_\_\_\_. The Honey Bee had become New Jersey's official State Insect. Mrs. Zuzov and her students were very proud that they had played a part in their State's legislative process.





# Help Bill Become Law



**B**ill needs help to become a law! Go through the maze and show Bill the right path to take! (answers on page 22)

**START HERE**

Proposal: a law begins with an idea

Bill Draft: the idea is written in proper form

First Reading: the bill is introduced in the sponsor's House during a session and sent to a committee

Committee Action: the committee approves the bill and sends it on

Second Reading: after committee approval, the bill is given a second reading

Committee Review: the committee studies the bill and may make changes

Third Reading and Final Passage: the bill passes if a majority votes for it

Governor's Action: the governor may sign the bill into law or veto it

Veto Override: if the bill is vetoed, it may still become law by two-thirds vote of the Senate and the Assembly

Final Passage: the bill passes the second House in the same form

Second House: the bill must go through the same process here

**FINISH**

Bill Becomes A Law!



# Get Involved!



## Look, listen and learn!

The best way to get involved is to know what's going on. Once you hear everyone's point of view, then it's easier to make up your own mind.

## Vote!

All citizens have the right to vote. Each New Jersey resident votes to elect one State Senator and two General Assembly members, who then make laws for us. To vote, you must be at least 18 years old and registered with the Board of Elections in your community.

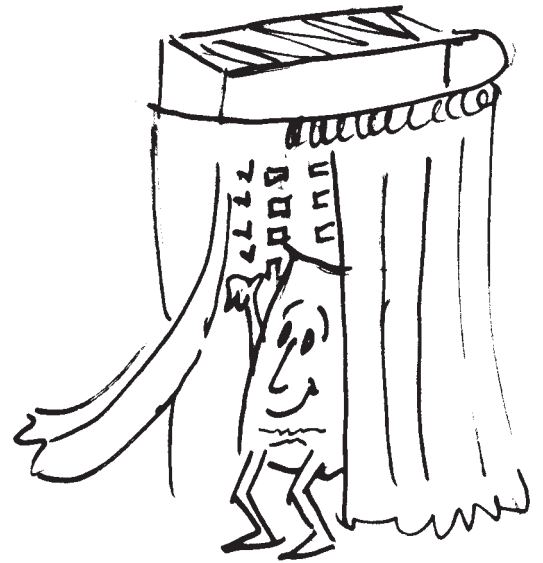
Even though you may not be old enough to vote, you can still make your voice heard. Here's how:

## Talk to someone who CAN vote!

Share your feelings and ideas with your parents, neighbors, friends, relatives and community leaders.

## Write a letter, call or E-mail your legislator!

Tell your lawmakers how you feel about your community and state.



## Join forces!

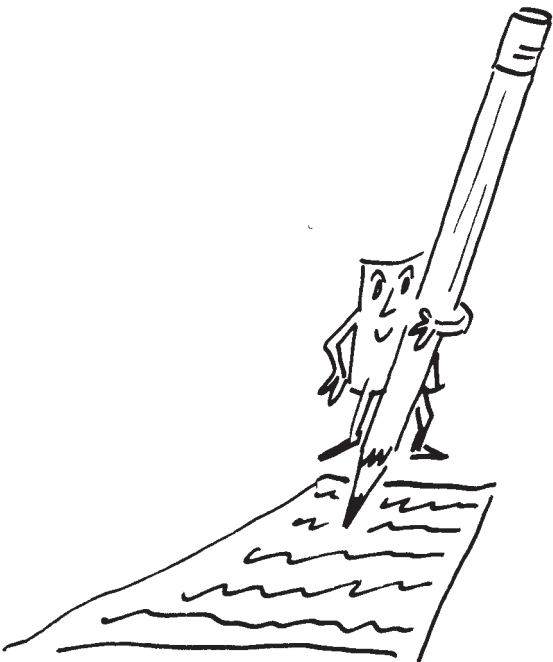
Work with other people or groups who share your thoughts. Tell everyone to contact their legislators.

## Show your support!

A petition is like a special request signed by many people and shared with your lawmakers. Citizens may also gather at public events, such as rallies, to show support for issues.

## Do you have any ideas for new laws?

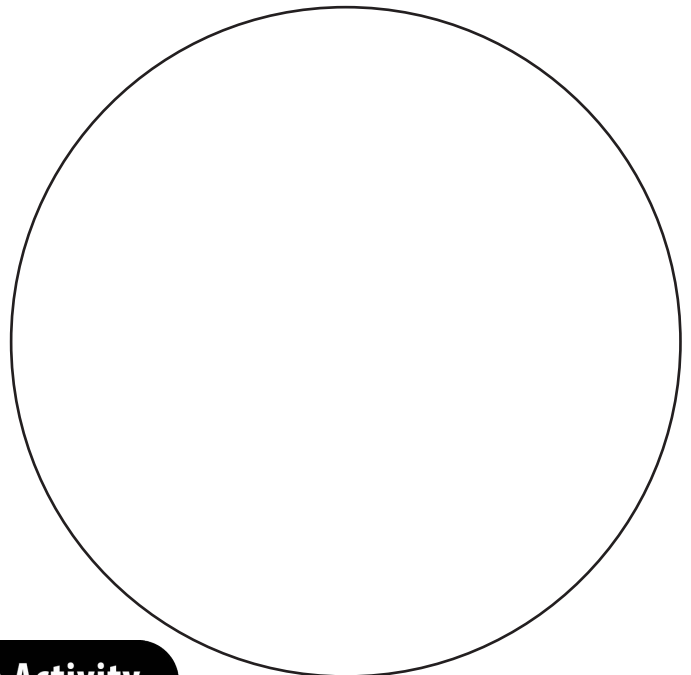
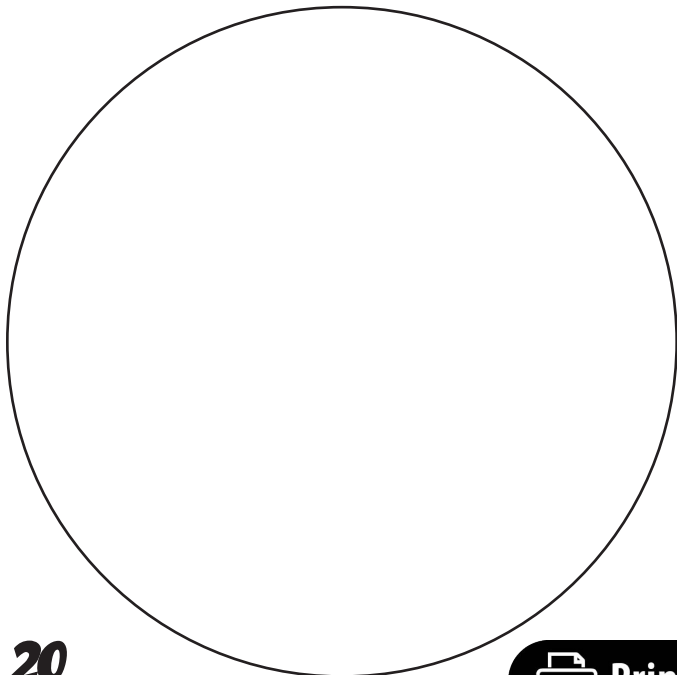
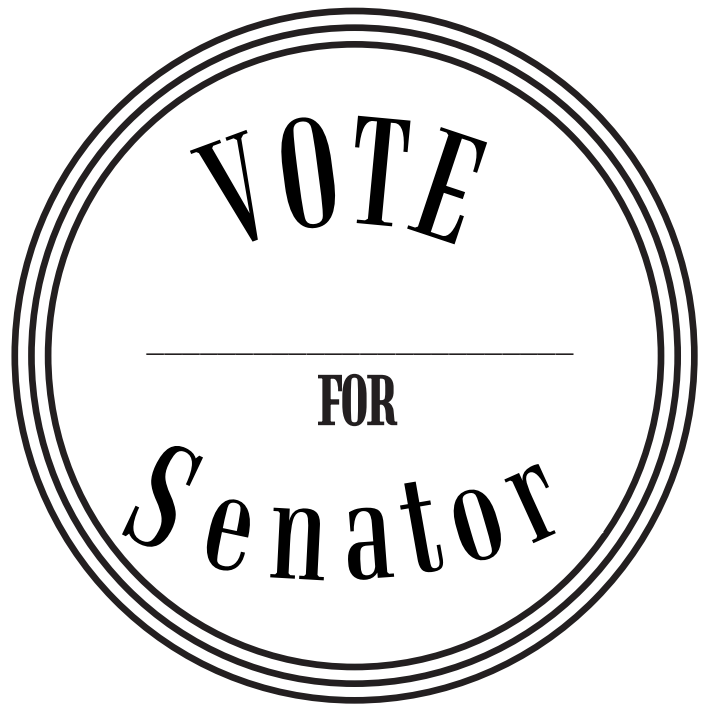
Are there things you want to see changed in your community? Write down two ideas that you have for laws.



# Become a Legislator

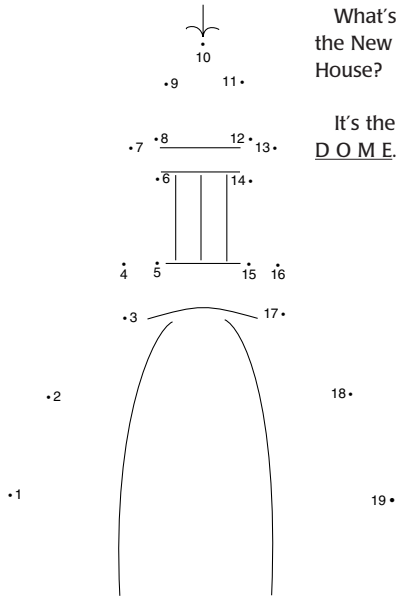
**N**ew Jersey needs future legislative leaders! Remember, you must be at least 21 years old to run for office. You may be too young to run, but it's never too early to start your campaign! That means telling lots of people about yourself and your ideas.

Buttons are a good way to get your name around! Below are some sample buttons. Try making your own and hold a pretend election in your classroom. Remember, everyone gets to vote for one Senator and two General Assembly members. Good luck!



# Answers

## Page 2



What's missing from the New Jersey State House?

It's the State House  
**D O M E.**

## Page 3

1. 21
2. 400,000 dimes collected
3. 12,000 pieces of gold leaf

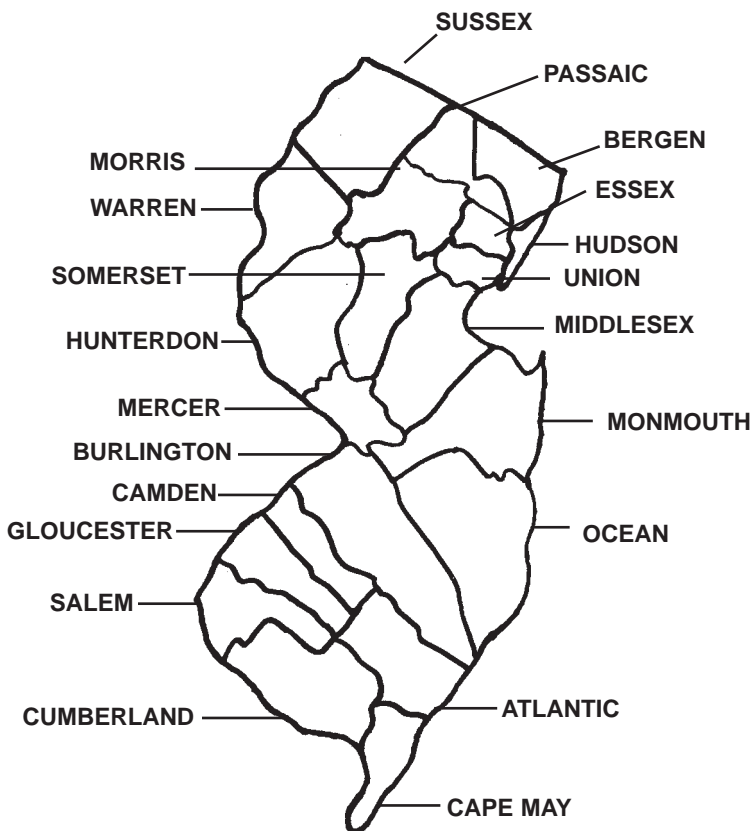
## Page 5

1. D
2. G
3. B
4. I
5. H
6. F
7. C
8. A
9. E

## Page 4 Liberty, Prosperity, 1776

## Page 6 red oak, goldfinch, honey bee, violet

## Page 8

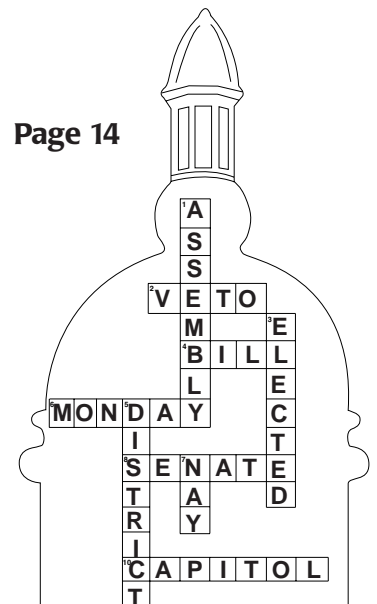


## Page 9

1. 21
2. MERCER
4. 10
5. 9
6. BURLINGTON AND CAPE MAY
7. SUSSEX
8. CAPE MAY
9. 3
10. ATLANTIC and OCEAN

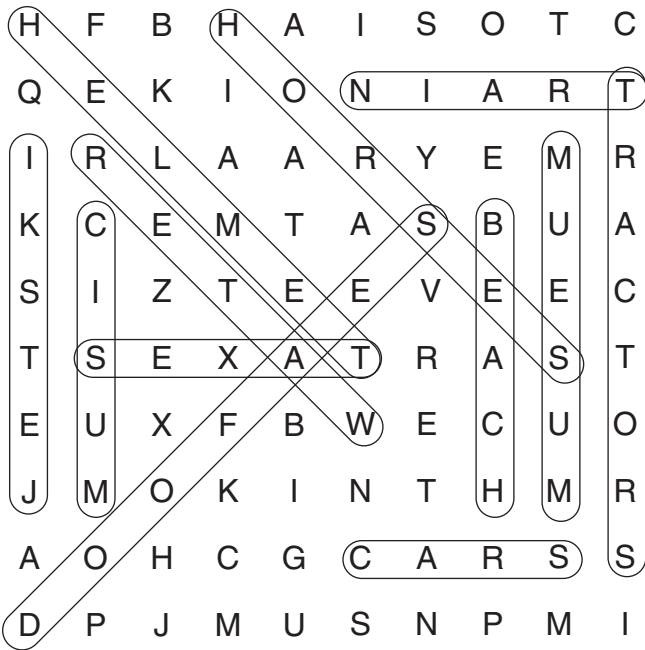
## Page 10 Nebraska

## Page 14



# Answers

## Page 15



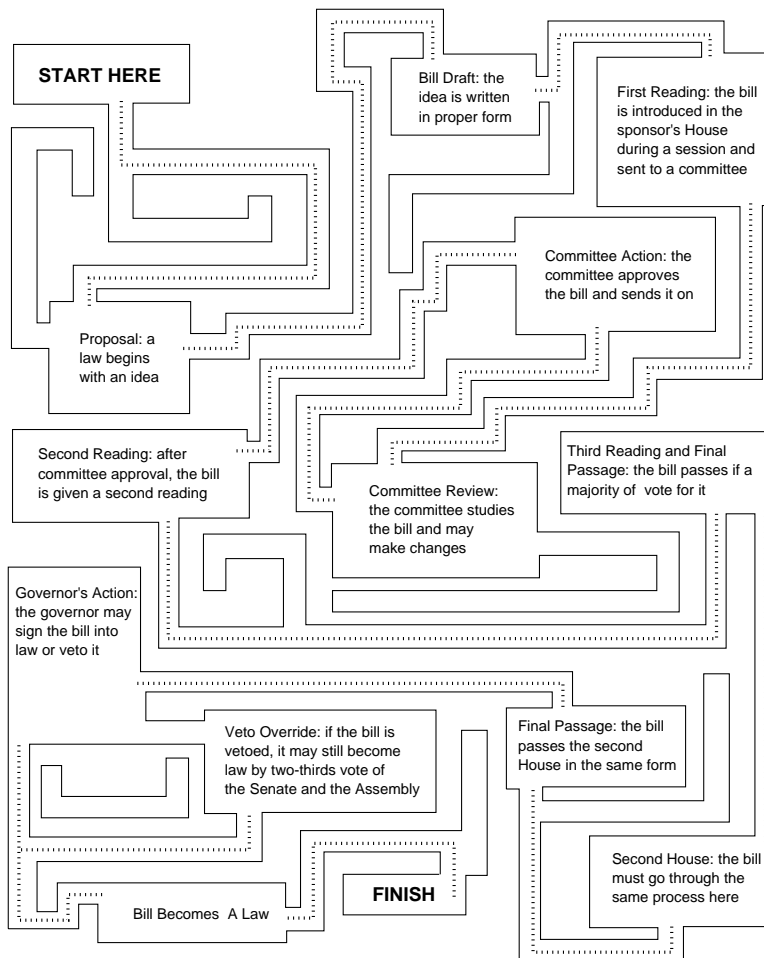
## Page 16

1. LEGISLATOR
2. CONSTITUENTS
3. BILL
4. COMMITTEE
5. DEBATE
6. AMEND
7. VOTE
8. LAW

## Page 17

New Jersey's **CONSTITUTION** establishes the State's government and all our laws. Our government has **THREE** main branches. They are the **LEGISLATIVE**, the **EXECUTIVE**, and the **JUDICIAL** branches. The **LEGISLATURE** makes the laws for all New Jersey, based on the requirements and the limits in the constitution. There are two groups, or Houses, in the Legislature – the **SENATE** and the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**. The executive branch of government carries out the **LAWS** made by the Legislature. At the head of this branch is the **GOVERNOR**. The judicial branch of government is made up of the **COURTS**. This system of courts and **JUDGES** determines the facts, interprets the laws, settles disputes between citizens, and imposes penalties on people who break the law.

## Page 18







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