

*How
United States
Laws
Get Made*

Step 4:

Step 7:

Step 1:

Step 5:

Step 8:

Step 2:

Step 6:

Step 9:

Step 3:

Cut out each mini-frame (child can color the frame if desired). Write in each step of the process. Older children may write more about each step. Place each on notebook page (or in lapbook) and connect each step with string to follow the process or draw arrows from one step to another.

How Laws Get made:

1. **Bill** Someone in Congress has an idea and writes it as a bill. We'll imagine that this one starts in the Senate.
2. **Introduction & Committee**. The bill is given a title & number and goes to a small group of people in the Senate.
3. **Hearings**: the committee listens to people's ideas about the bill. Then they make a decision to vote for the bill or not. If it is approved, it goes to the whole Senate.
4. **Debate**: Senators discuss questions about the bill. This can take only a couple minutes or several weeks. Then they vote on it. If it passes, then it goes to the House of Representatives.
5. **Transfer**: This is when the bill changes hands from the Senate to the House of Representatives.
6. **Committee, Hearings & Debates** This happens in the House just as it did in the Senate. The House votes on it's bill.
7. **Conference** If the two bills have differences, a few Senators and a few Representatives meet to write a compromise bill that both branches can agree on.
8. **Final Vote** Each branch votes on the bill. If it passes, it is signed by the top person of each branch and gets sent to the President.
9. **Presidential Approval**: The bill becomes a law if the President signs it. The President can veto the bill if he doesn't like it. If he vetoes it, it can still become a law if $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the members of both the House & the Senate vote for it.