

CHAPTER TWELVE – CONGRESS IN ACTION
BIG IDEA WORKSHEET - STUDY GUIDE

Section One: Congress Organizes (p 320-327)

Opening Day in the House	Opening Day in the Senate
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The House organizes every other _____. 2. The _____ presides at the beginning of the first day. He conducts a roll call and presides over the election of a _____. 3. The _____ of the House administers the oath of office to the Speaker of the House. 4. The Speaker then administers the oath to _____. 5. The House then elects its _____, _____, and _____. 6. The House then adopts its _____. 7. The House then appoints members to the various _____. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Senate has much less to do on opening day than the House, because the Senate is a _____. This means most of its members, the presiding officer, and rules have been carried over from the previous year. 2. New _____ will take the oath of office. 3. Vacancies on _____ will be filled.

The State of the Union Address

This speech usually occurs a few _____ after opening day. It is always delivered before a _____ session of Congress. The President will report on the state of the nation as he sees it, in both _____ and _____ terms.

Position	Incumbent	How selected?	Duties
Speaker of the House	John Boehner (R)	Elected by the House	
House Majority Leader	Eric Cantor (R)	Elected by his caucus	
House Majority Whip	Kevin McCarthy (R)	Elected by his caucus	
House Minority Leader	Nancy Pelosi (D)	Elected by her caucus	
House Minority Whip	Steny Hoyer (D)	Elected by his caucus	
Dean of the House	John Dingell (D)	Longest serving representative	
President of the Senate	Joe Biden (D)	Elected by the electoral college	
President Pro Tempore	Dan Inouye (D)	Longest serving senator from the majority party	
Senate Majority Leader	Harry Reid (D)	Elected by his caucus	
Senate Majority Whip	Dick Durbin (D)	Elected by his caucus	
Senate Minority Leader	Mitch McConnell (R)	Elected by his caucus	
Senate Minority Whip	Jon Kyl (R)	Elected by his caucus	

Committee Chairman

The bulk of the work of Congress, especially in the House, is really done in _____. The _____ of each committee is chosen by the majority party caucus. Chairmen decide when their committees will meet, which _____ to take up, whether to hold public hearings, and what witnesses to call. Committee chairmen are usually selected in accordance with the _____ rule.