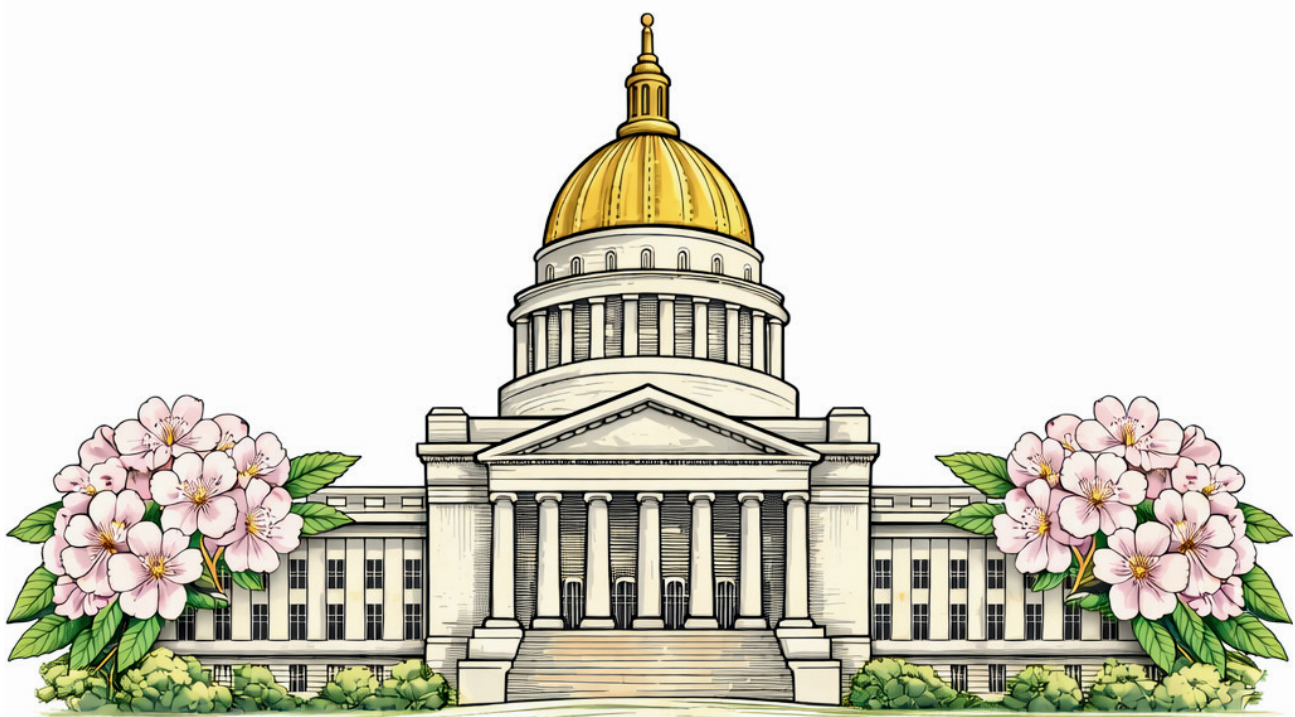


EXPLORE WEST VIRGINIA!

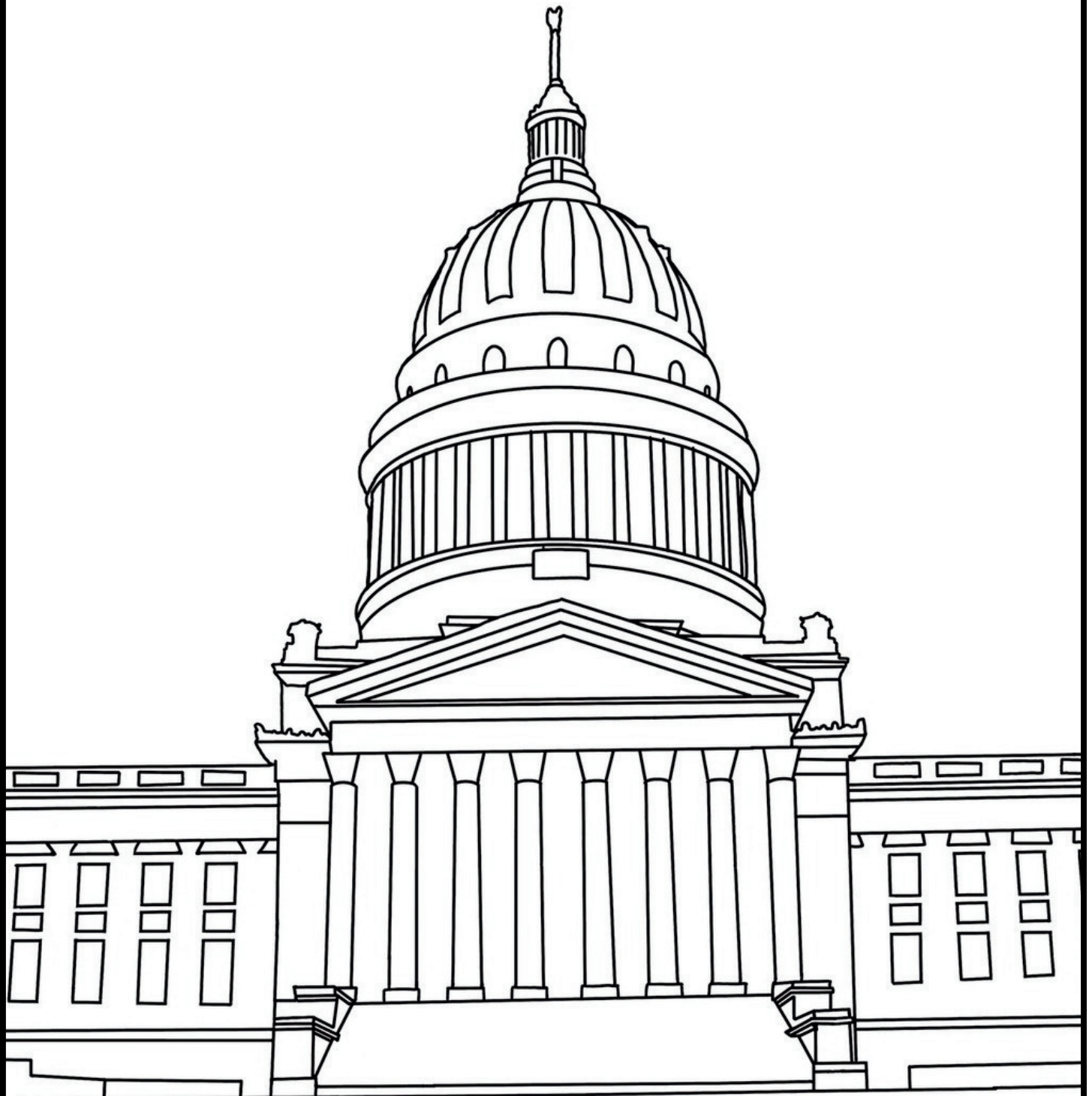
Capitol & Symbols Activities Book



Montani Semper Liberi
Mountaineers Are Always Free

Produced by the West Virginia Legislature

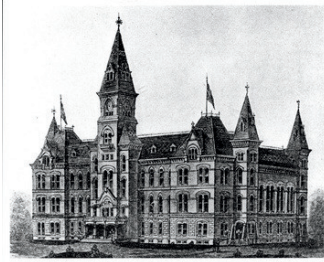
WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL



Charleston, WV

WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL

Match the Capitol Building to the City and Year



Wheeling, 1863 - 1870



Charleston, 1885 - 1921



Charleston, 1870 - 1875



Charleston, 1932 - present



Wheeling, 1875 - 1885

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The Executive Branch

The Executive of the State is the Governor.
Function: To carry out or execute the laws made by the Legislature or the Constitution, conduct daily affairs of the state through other elected officials, appointees, and employees.



The Legislative Branch

The Legislature includes the House of Delegates and the Senate.
Function: To make the laws in a 60 day session, debates proposed ideas to determine if what becomes law, and approve the budget for the state.



The Judicial Branch

Separation of Powers:
Each branch has its own separate powers (or functions). This, along with checks and balances, aims to prevent one branch from becoming too powerful.



The three Branches of government operate together through **Checks and Balances** - which allows each branch to maintain an amount of power without exceeding the power of the other branches.

Function: To interpret laws, settle legal disputes, punish violators of the law, hear cases, protect rights granted by the constitution, and determine guilt or innocence.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES

West Virginia has 55 counties. Can you color in your home county?



How many counties can you name?



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Word Search

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

ADJOURN

COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION

AMENDMENT

CONSTITUTION

MAJORITY

RULES

BILL

DEBATE

MINORITY

SENATOR

CAUCUS

DELEGATE

PASSED

SESSION

CHAIR

DISTRICT

PRESIDENT

SPEAKER

CHAMBER

INTERIM

PROCEDURE

VOTE

CLERK

LAW

RECESS

WHIP

LEADER

REJECTED

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

The West Virginia Legislature is made up of two chambers, the Senate and the House of Delegates. The Senate has 17 districts with two Senators elected from each district. The House of Delegates has 100 members elected from single-member districts. It is the job of the Legislature to create, amend, and pass legislation.

Senate

17 DISTRICTS, 34 SENATORS

To be eligible for election to the Senate, a person must be a United States citizen, at least 25-years-old, a resident of the state for at least five years and a resident of his or her district or county for at least one year. West Virginia State Senators serve 4-year terms with half of the body up for election every two years.

Presiding Officer: President of the Senate

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

The West Virginia Legislature convenes on the second Wednesday of January each year for regular session. On the years following a Governor election, the Legislature recesses for one month until the second Wednesday of February. Regular Sessions of the Legislature consist of a 60 day session where bills are introduced, amended and passed - including the budget bill each year.

House of Delegates

100 DISTRICTS, 100 MEMBERS

To be eligible for election to the House, a person must be a United States citizen, be eligible to vote, and be a resident of his or her district or county for at least one year. West Virginia State Delegates serve 2-year terms and the entire body is up for election every two years.

Presiding Officer: Speaker of the House

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 Statistics

GENDER

Female - 13%
Male - 87%

ETHNICITY

White/Caucasian - 96%
Black/African American - 2%
Other - 1%
2 or more races - 1%

GENERATION

Gen Z - 4%
Millennial - 27%
Gen X - 38%
Baby Boomer - 27%
Silent Generation - 4%

PARTY

Democrat - 8%
Republican - 92%

RELIGION

Protestant - 33%
Catholic - 10%
Unspecified Christian - 30%
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - 1%
Jewish - 1 %
Unaffiliated or Undeclared - 25%



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

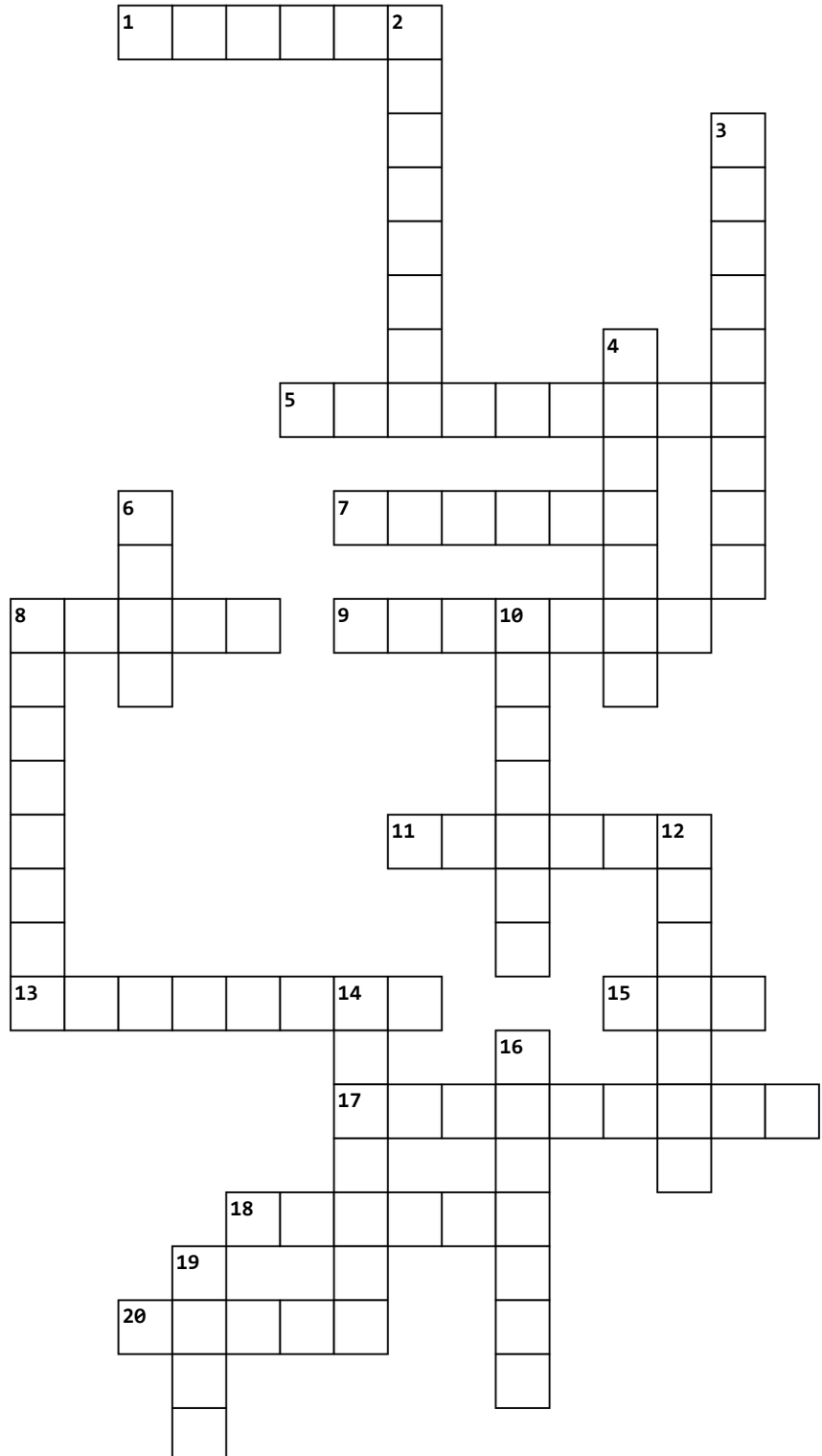
Crossword

Across

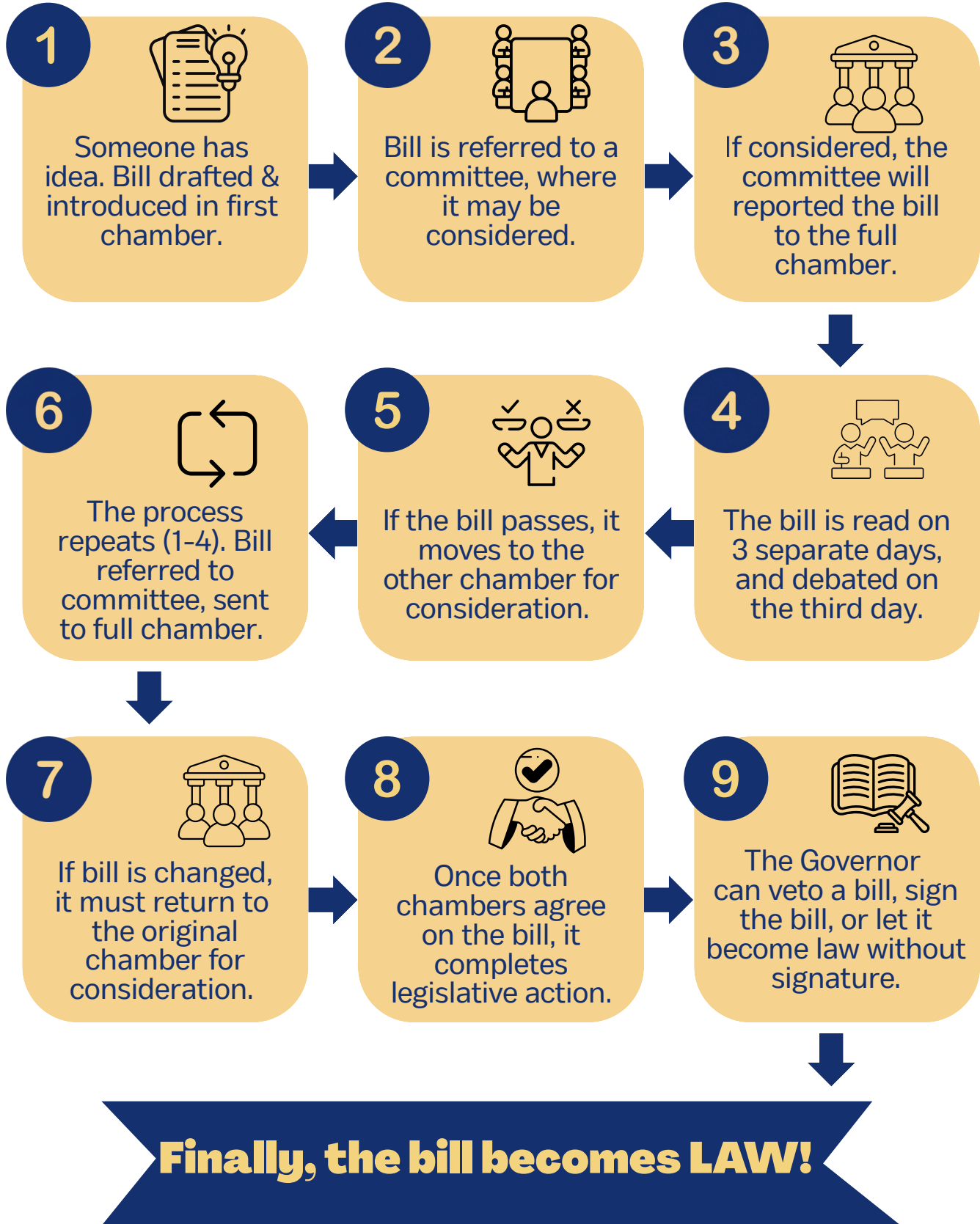
1. When most of the body voted for a bill, it _____.
5. Lieutenant Governor; leader of the Senate
7. Take a break during a floor session or committee meeting
8. Procedures of each Chamber
9. Serves in the Senate
11. A meeting of members of a specific party or movement
13. Delegates and Senators are elected by constituents of their _____.
15. A bill that has passed both houses and been signed by the Governor
17. A change made to a bill
18. Discussion between members on the floor or in committee.
20. Leads a committee

Down

2. Serves in the House
3. Bills are assigned to a _____ and discussed before being presented to the full chamber.
4. When lawmakers meet; 60 days in West Virginia
6. Proposal to create or change law
8. When most of the body voted against a bill, it was _____.
10. Once the business of the calendar is completed for the day, the body will _____.
12. Leader of the House
14. Where each body meets to take up legislation
16. Meetings outside of session
19. Caucus vote counter, determines if members need swayed



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



STATE FLOWER

The Rhododendron was adopted as the state flower in 1903 after a recommendation from the Governor and a vote by public school students. The Rhododendron is a flowering shrub with whitish-pink flowers, which blooms in late June and early July.



Rhododendron
Rhododendron Maximum

STATE ANIMAL

The Black Bear was selected at the state animal by a poll of teachers, students, and sportsmen conducted in 1954-1955. It was officially named the state animal in 1973. The Black Bear is a medium sized bear in North America. It is the smallest bear species on the continent. It lives in largely forested areas.



Black Bear
Ursus Americanus

STATE BIRD

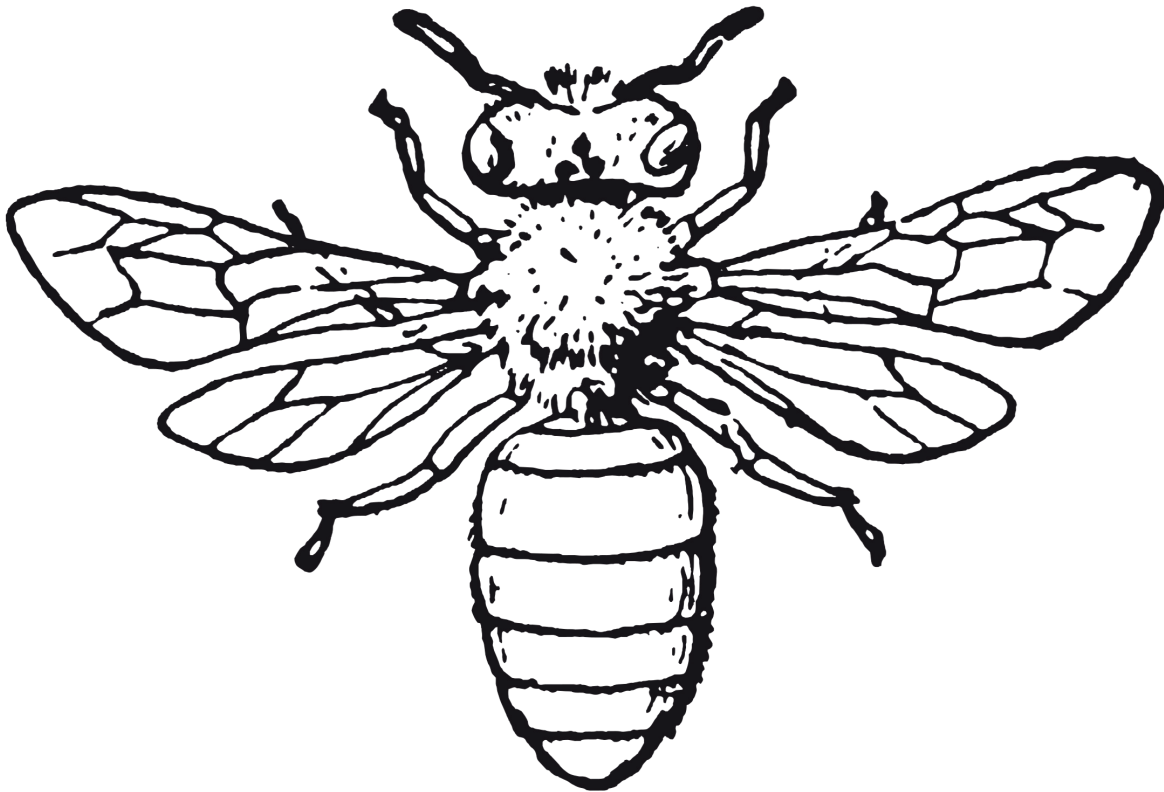
The Cardinal was adopted as the state bird in 1949. The bird was selected by public school students and civic organizations. The cardinal is found throughout the United States and is the state bird of eight states. Male cardinals are bright red with a black mask around the beak, while the females are a grayish-brown color and a slight reddish tint with gray masks around the beak.



Cardinal
Richmondena Cardinalis

STATE INSECT

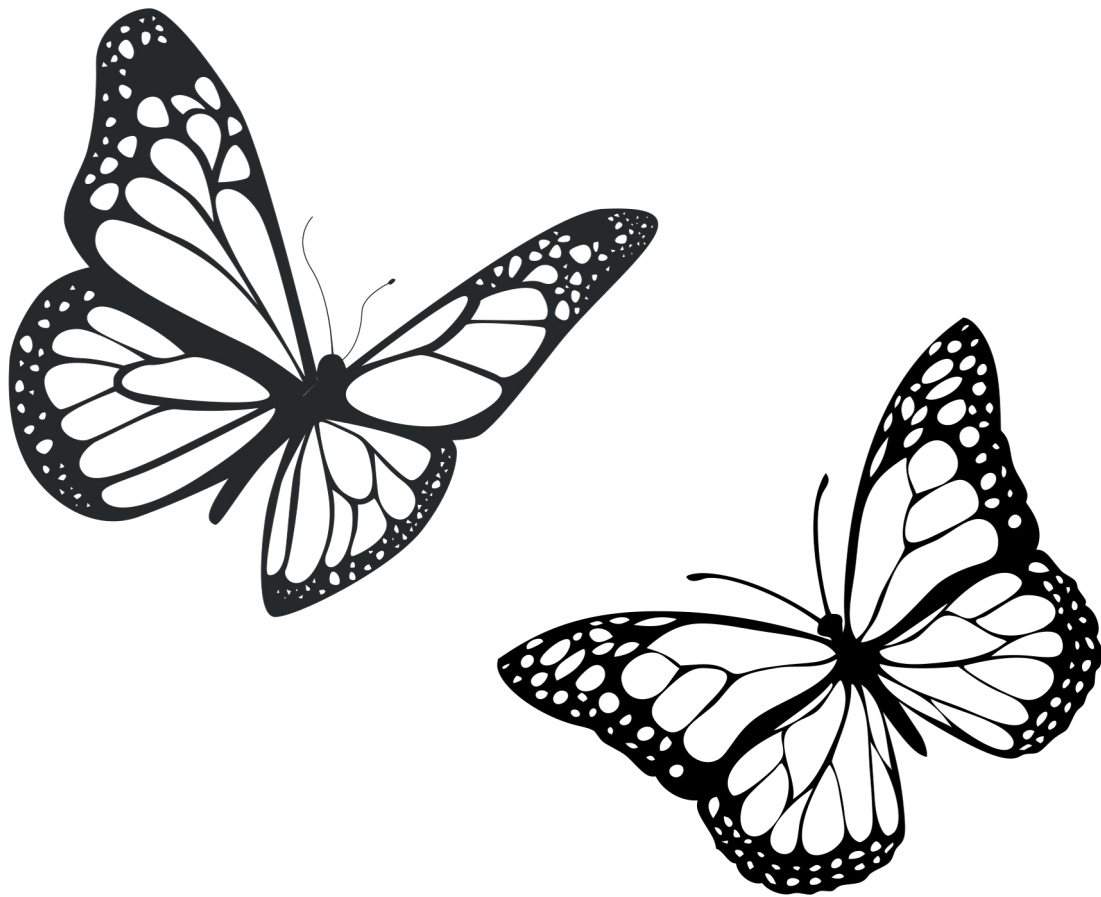
The Honeybee became the state insect in 2002. The Honeybee pollinates the state's most important crops and provides tasty honey. The Honeybee has six legs and four wings. The color of a honeybee ranges from dark yellow to gold with three dark bands on its abdomen.



Honeybee
Apis Mellifera

STATE BUTTERFLY

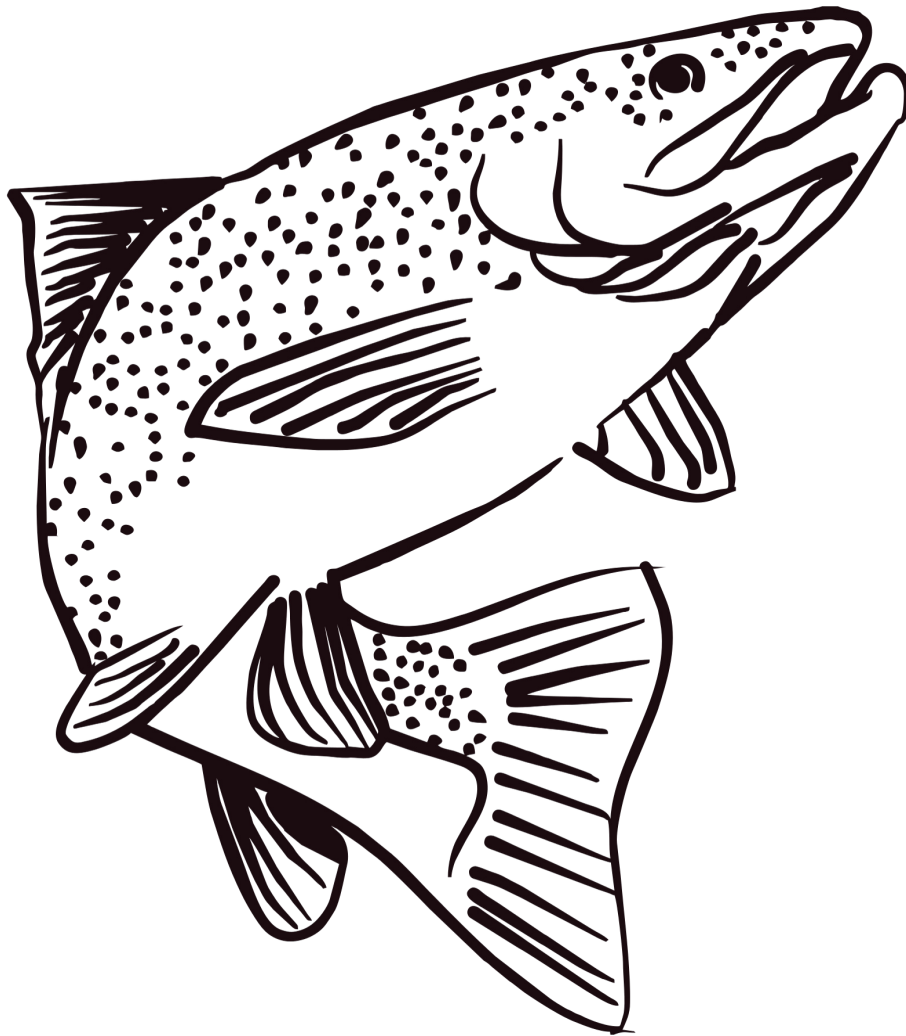
The Monarch Butterfly was designated as the state butterfly in 1995. The monarch butterfly is orange and black and can be seen in the spring.



Monarch Butterfly
Danaus Plexippus

STATE FISH

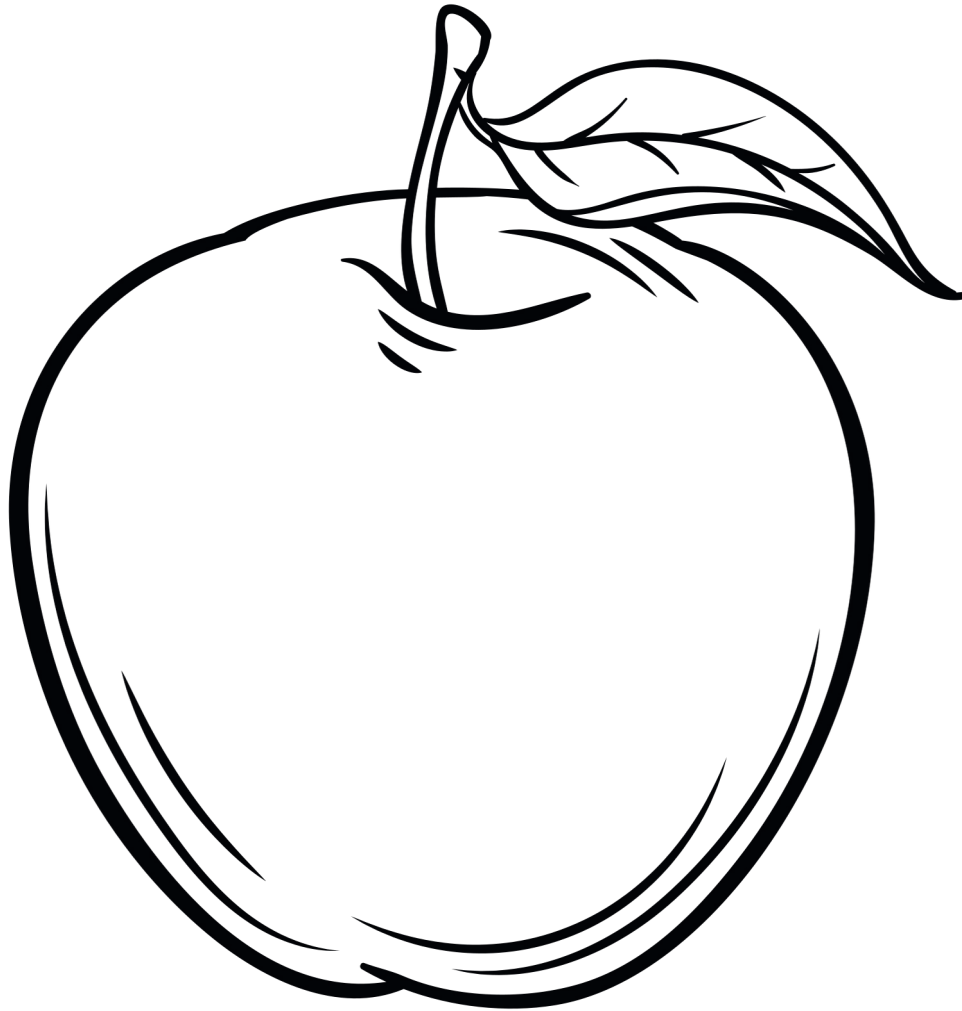
The Brook Trout was adopted as the state fish in 1973. The Brook Trout is native to West Virginia; it thrives in the small cold spring-fed streams. It is olive in color with lighter sides and the males have a reddish belly.



Brook Trout
Salvelinus Fontinalis

STATE FRUIT

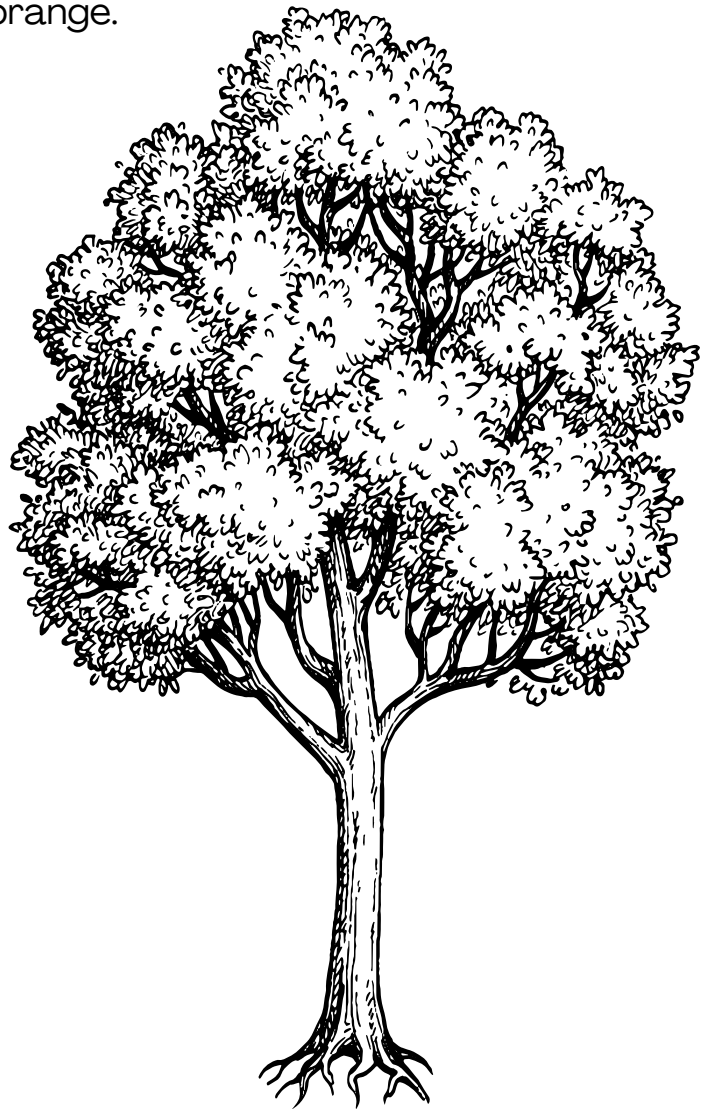
The Golden Delicious Apple was designated as the state fruit in 1995. This variety of apple was discovered in Clay County in 1905 at the farm of J. M. Mullins. It is a large, yellowish-green apple with a very sweet taste. It is one of the best apples for apple pie.



Golden Delicious Apple
Malus Domestica

STATE TREE

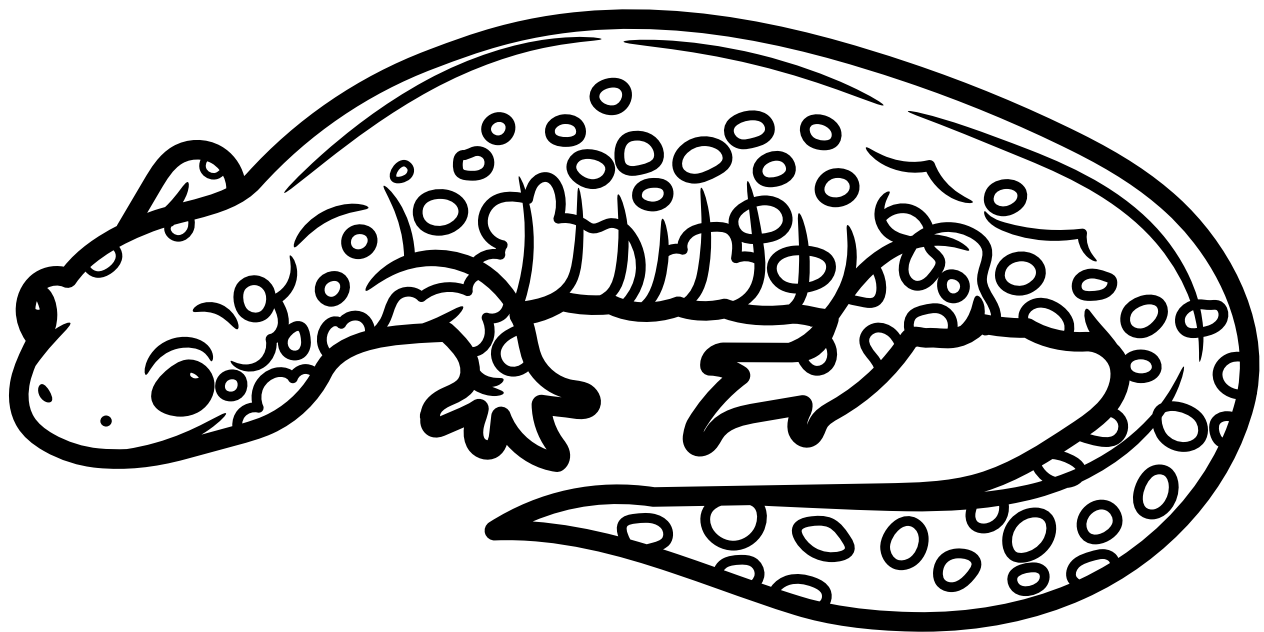
The Sugar Maple was adopted as the state tree in 1949, after a vote of public school students and civic organizations. The Sugar Maple is the primary source of maple syrup. It is known for its bright colored fall foliage. It's leaves are palm shaped with five lobes with rounded notches. In the fall, the leaves range from bright yellow to orange and red-orange.



Sugar Maple
Acer Saccharum

STATE AMPHIBIAN

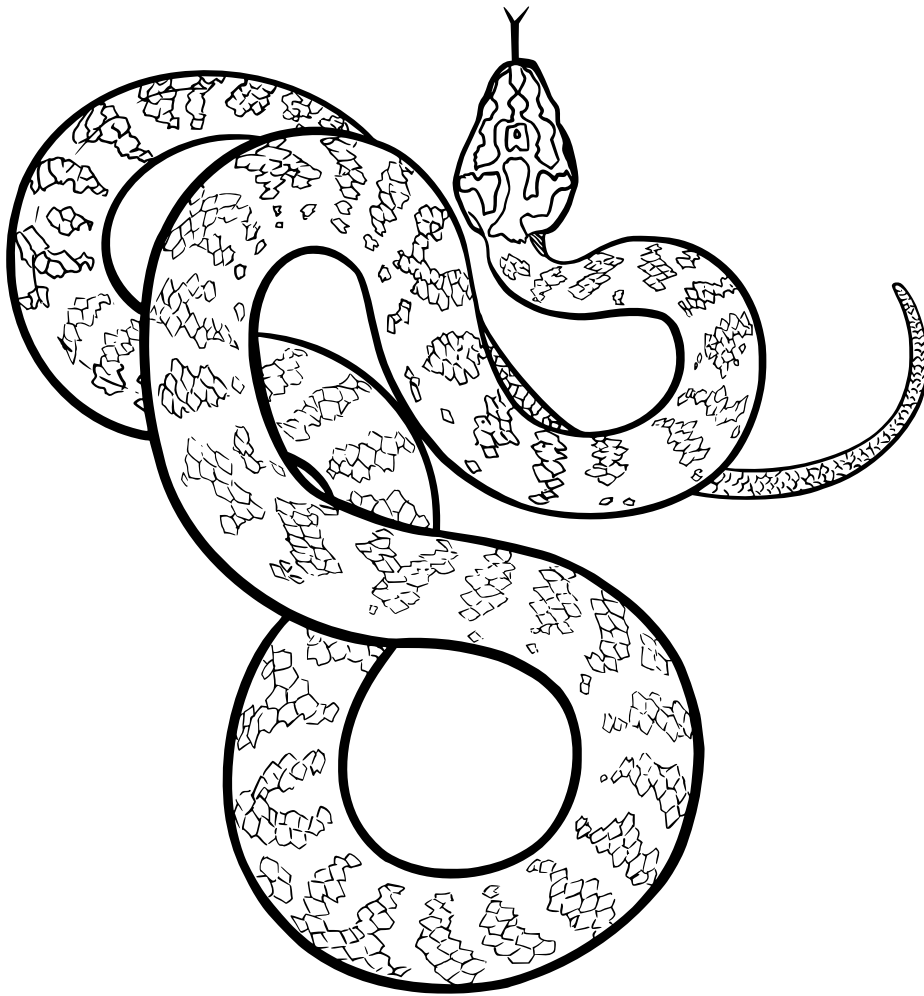
The Northern Red Salamander was adopted as the state's amphibian on March 12, 2015. The amphibian was proposed by students of Romney Middle School because its colors looked of West Virginia's fall foliage and the black spots make them think of West Virginia's coal.



Northern Red Salamander
Pseudotriton Ruber

STATE REPTILE

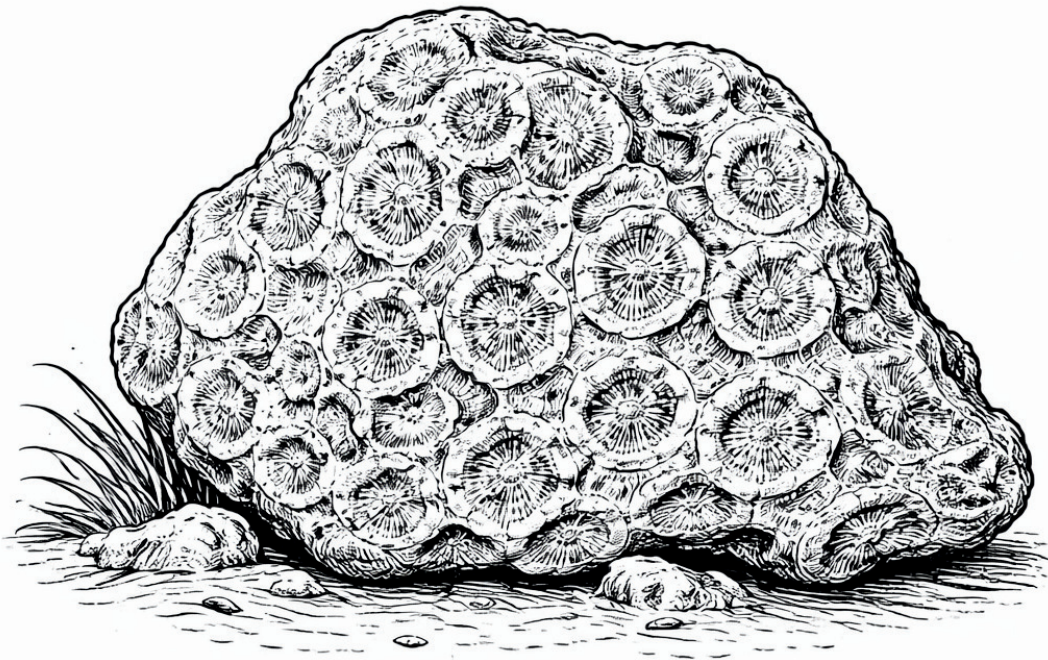
The Timber Rattlesnake was adopted as the state reptile on March 8, 2008. The Timber Rattlesnake has black or brown chevron shaped markings down its back, which is “reminiscent of West Virginia’s fauna and flora.” This rattlesnake is usually docile, but venomous. It’s usually found in remote, rocky, mountain areas.



Timber Rattlesnake
Crotalus Horridus

STATE GEM

The Fossil Coral was adopted as the State Gemstone in March 10 1990, although it is not actually a gemstone. The Mississippian fossil coral preserved in mineral chalcedony can be found in Hillsdale Limestone in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties. It is often cut and polished for jewelry.

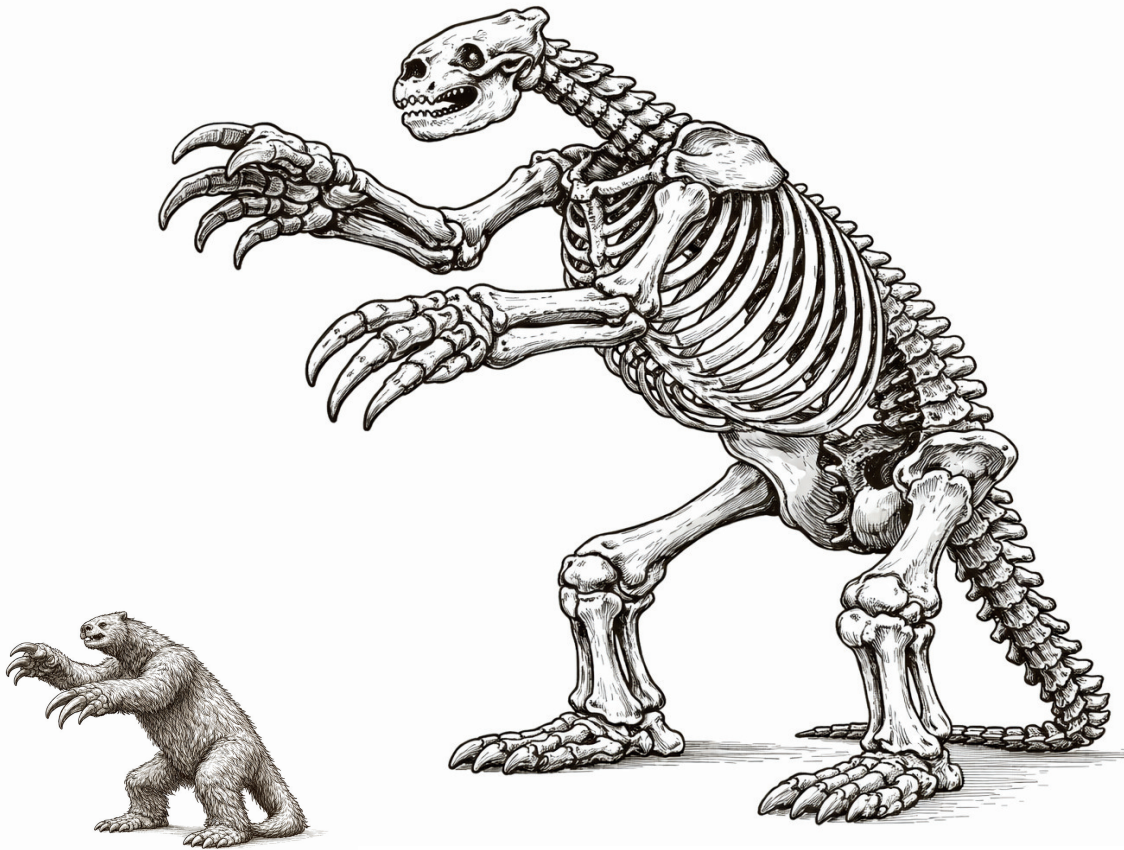


Fossil Coral
Silicified Lithostrotionella

STATE FOSSIL

The Jefferson's Ground Sloth was designated the State Fossil on March 8, 2008. The fossilized bones of a giant extinct ground sloth were found in the limestone caves of what is now Monroe County, West Virginia. The bones are from the Ice Age. It was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson.

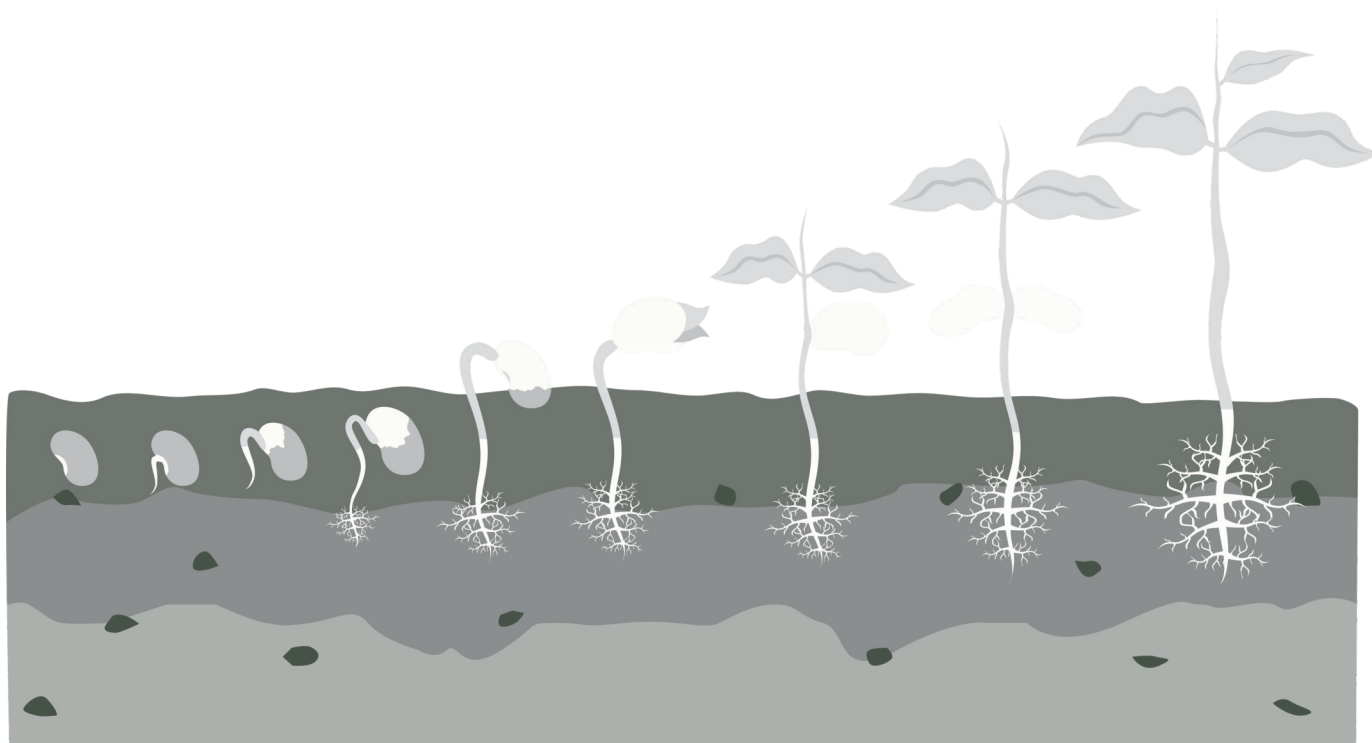
Color the fossil or add fur to it, like the photo below!



Jefferson's Ground Sloth
Megalonyx Jeffersonii

STATE SOIL

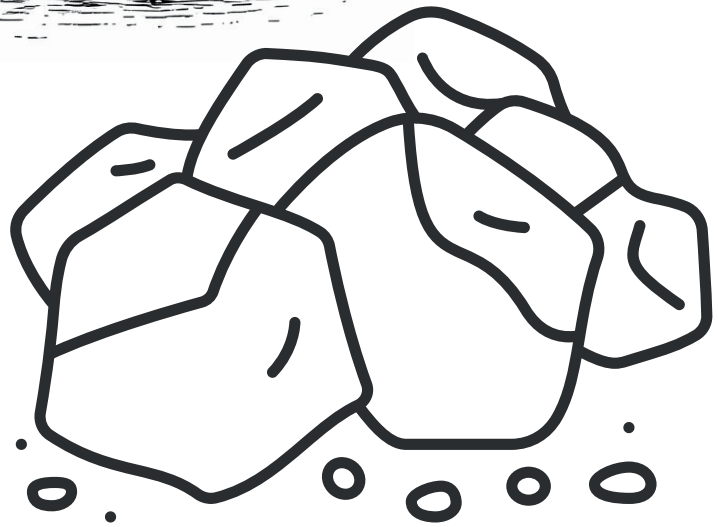
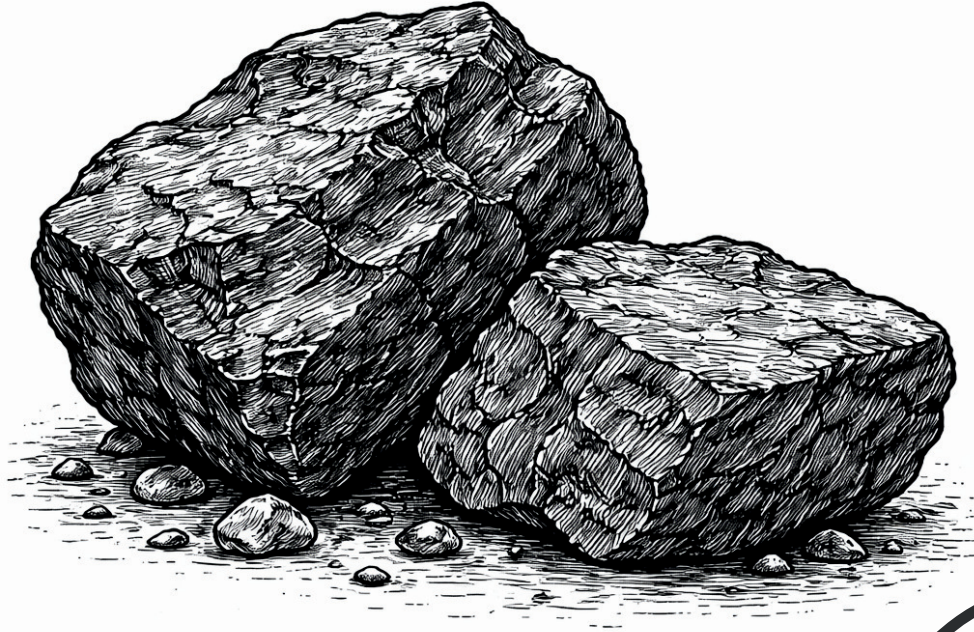
Monongahela Silt Loam was named the soil of West Virginia on April 2, 1997. Monongahela silt loam is used for hay, pasture, woodland, farmland, and to grow crops in West Virginia.



Monongahela Silt Loam

STATE ROCK

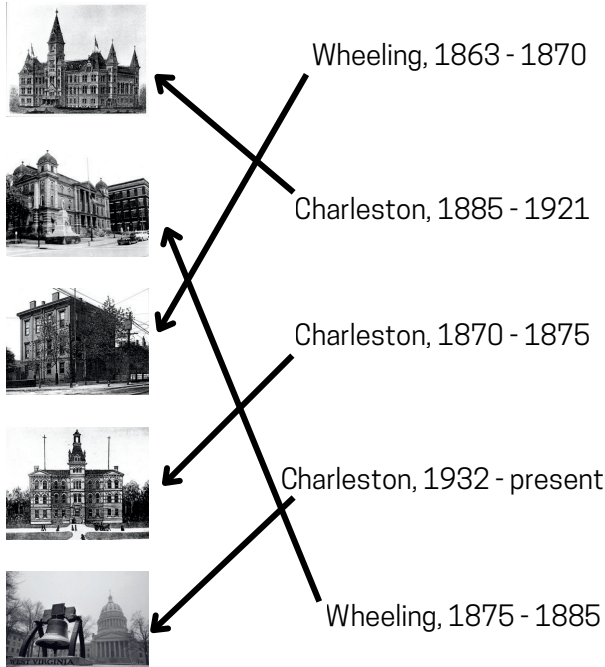
Bituminous coal was adopted as the State Rock on April 11, 2009. Coal has been part of West Virginia since the early days of European exploration. It was first discovered in the region in 1742 in what is now Racine.



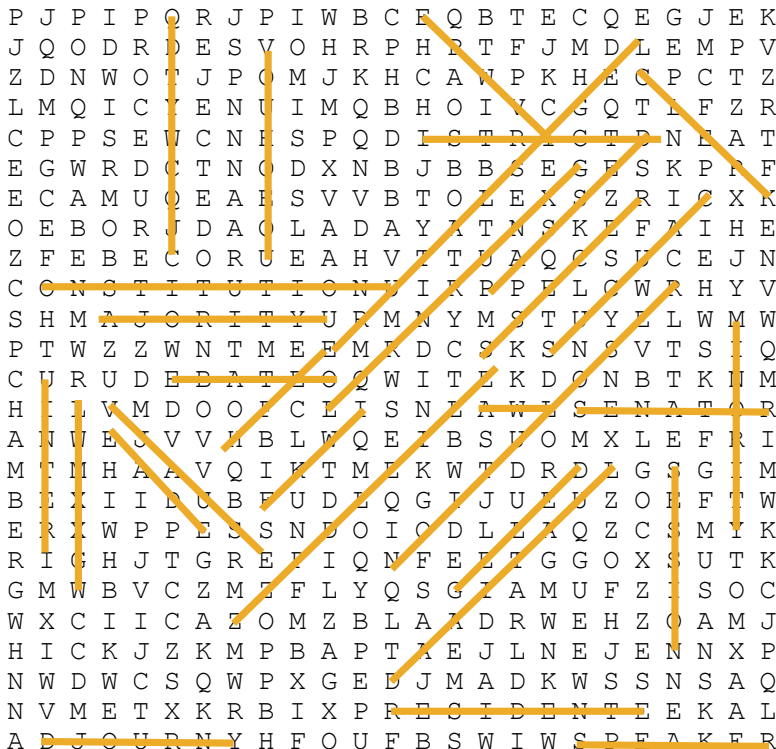
Bituminous Coal

Answers

Capitol Matching



Word Search



Crossword

Across

1. Passed
5. President
7. Recess
8. Rules
9. Senator
11. Caucus
13. District
15. Law
17. Amendment
18. Debate
20. Chair

Down

2. Delegate
3. Committee
4. Session
6. Bill
8. Rejected
10. Adjourn
12. Speaker
14. Chamber
16. Interim
19. Whip

Definitions

Adjournment: End of a Session or Committee meeting for the day.

Adjourn Sine Die: The final adjournment of a legislative session.

Amend: The action of changing the text of a bill, code, or resolution by inserting or deleting language.

Amendment: A change to legislation in committee or on the chamber floor to add, revise or delete language from a bill or resolution.

Bill: An idea for a new law.

Bill Status: System of checking where bills are in the legislative process.

Branches of Government: Three branches of government: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

Capital: The city where the state government is seated. For West Virginia, it is Charleston.

Capitol: The building where the state government meets.

Caucus: A meeting of the members of a party affiliation, an issue, or regional based group.

Citizen: A member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.

Code: The current laws of the state - completed legislation become part of state code.

Committee: A group of legislators from the House of Delegates or the Senate organized to consider legislation prior to it being sent to the entire body.

Constituent: A resident of the district of an elected official

Constitution: An official document that establishes the basic principles of government.

Fiscal Year: The 12-month period used in the State budget. In West Virginia, the state fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Floor: The portion of the chamber reserved for members, staff, and other persons granted access during the session.

Gallery: Balconies above each chamber where visitors can view the proceedings.

Government: An elected or appointed group of people who make rules and laws, and decide if rules and laws have been broken.

Governor: The head of the executive branch of government and the state's top elected official.

Interim Meetings: Monthly meetings of the joint committee of the House and Senate on specific topics. These meetings can lead to legislation during the regular session.

Journals: Daily records of what happens during floor sessions.

Law: The rules people live by; created by the passage of legislation.

Legislative Calendar: The annual 60-days the Legislature meets, generally beginning in January.

Legislator: An elected or appointed member of the legislative body who represents the constituents of a district.

Legislature: The group of Legislators elected to the House of Delegates and the Senate.

Lobbyist: A person who represents an interest group and hopes to influence legislation on behalf of their client's interests.

Rules: What members of the legislature can or cannot do during the legislative session. In West Virginia, there are House Rules, Senate Rules, and Joint Rules. Both chambers must adhere to Joint Rules.

Regular Session: The 60-days when the Legislature convenes and conducts normal business.

Special Session: A session called outside of the regular session to conduct business on a specific topic. The Governor or the Legislature can call a special session

Tax: Money paid to the government for a specific good or service.

Veto: Governor's action to reject a bill.

Vote: To select. In elections, constituents vote for elected officials. In the Legislature, elected officials vote on the legislation to create law.

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE'S
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