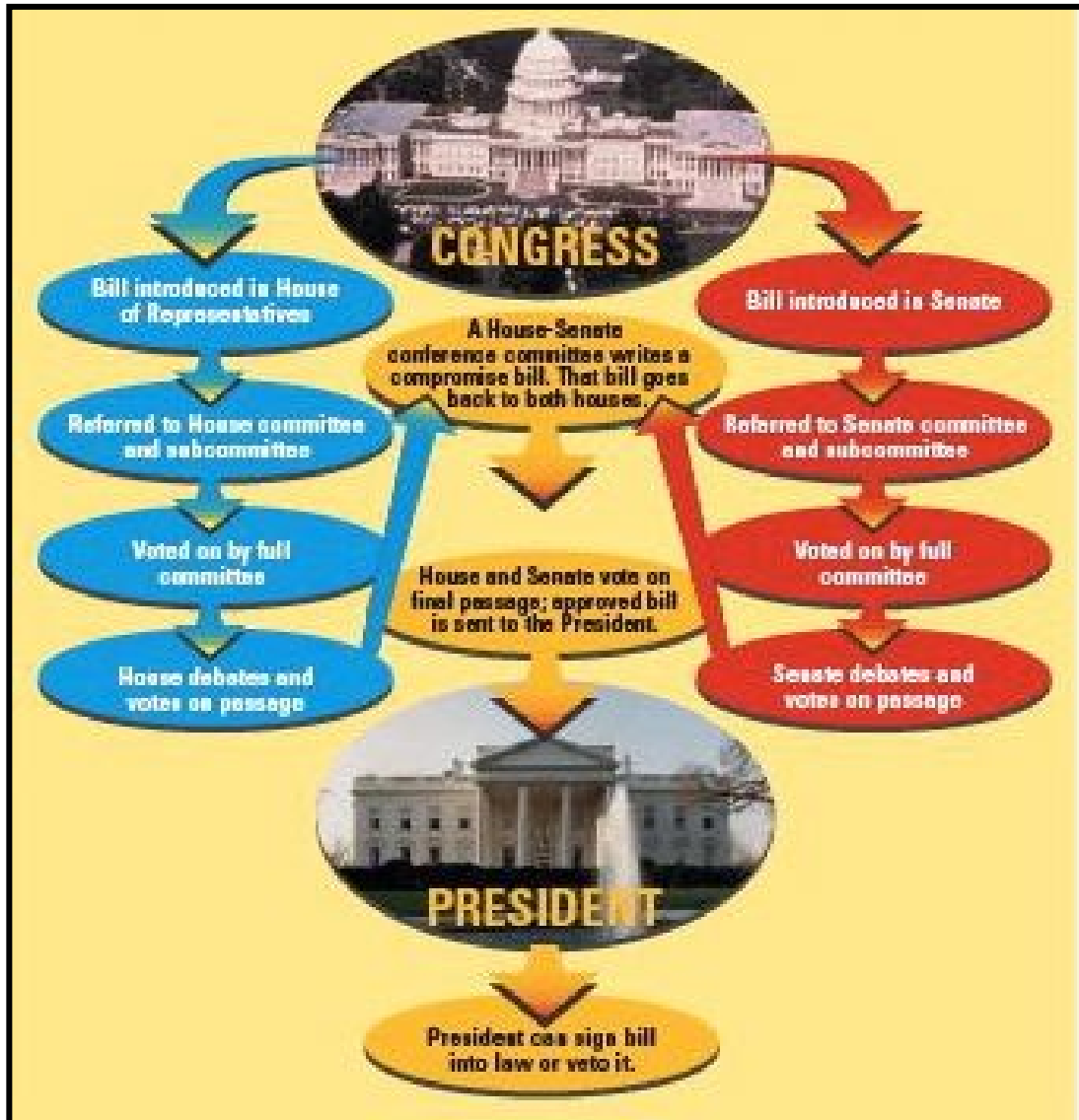


# How A Bill Becomes Law

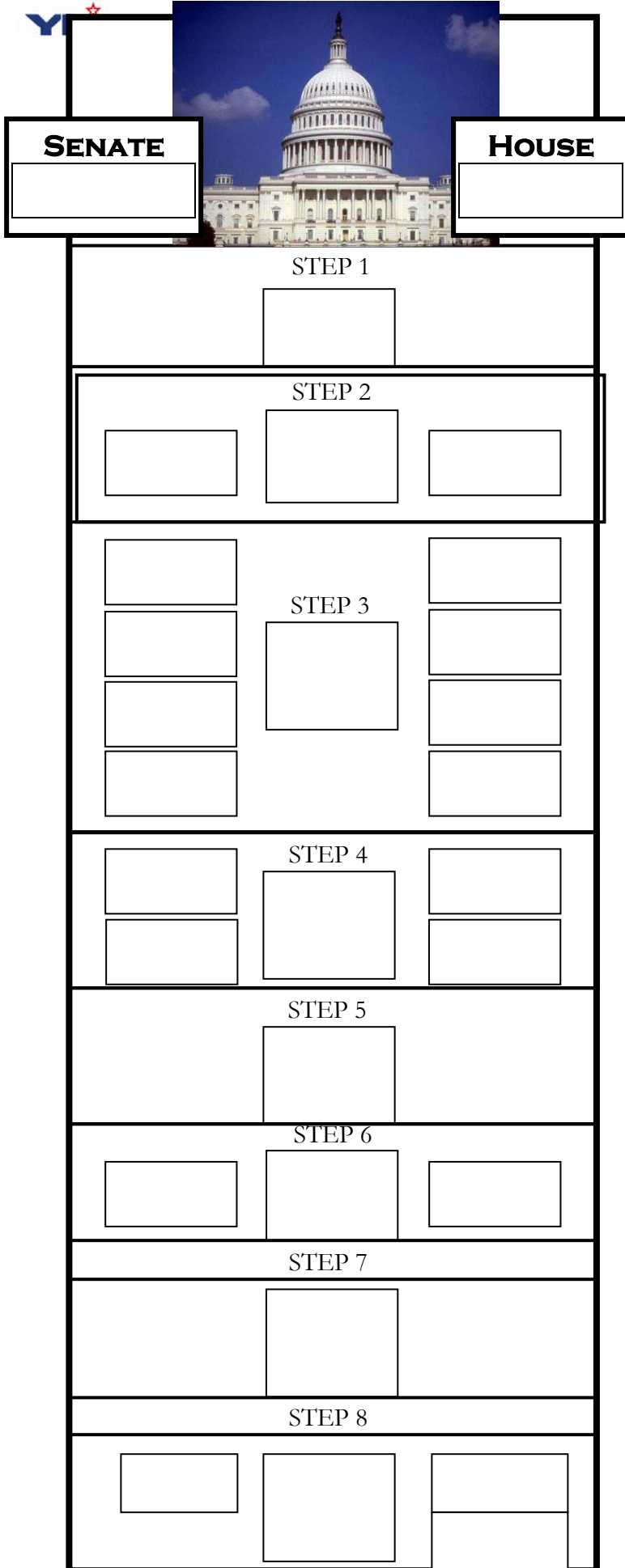


**Fact:** *About 5,000 bills are introduced in Congress every year, but only about 150 are signed into law.*

1. Explain why so few bills become law.
2. Is that a good thing or a bad thing?
3. Should the legislative process in Congress be reformed? If yes, what changes would you recommend? If not, why not?

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

## Review



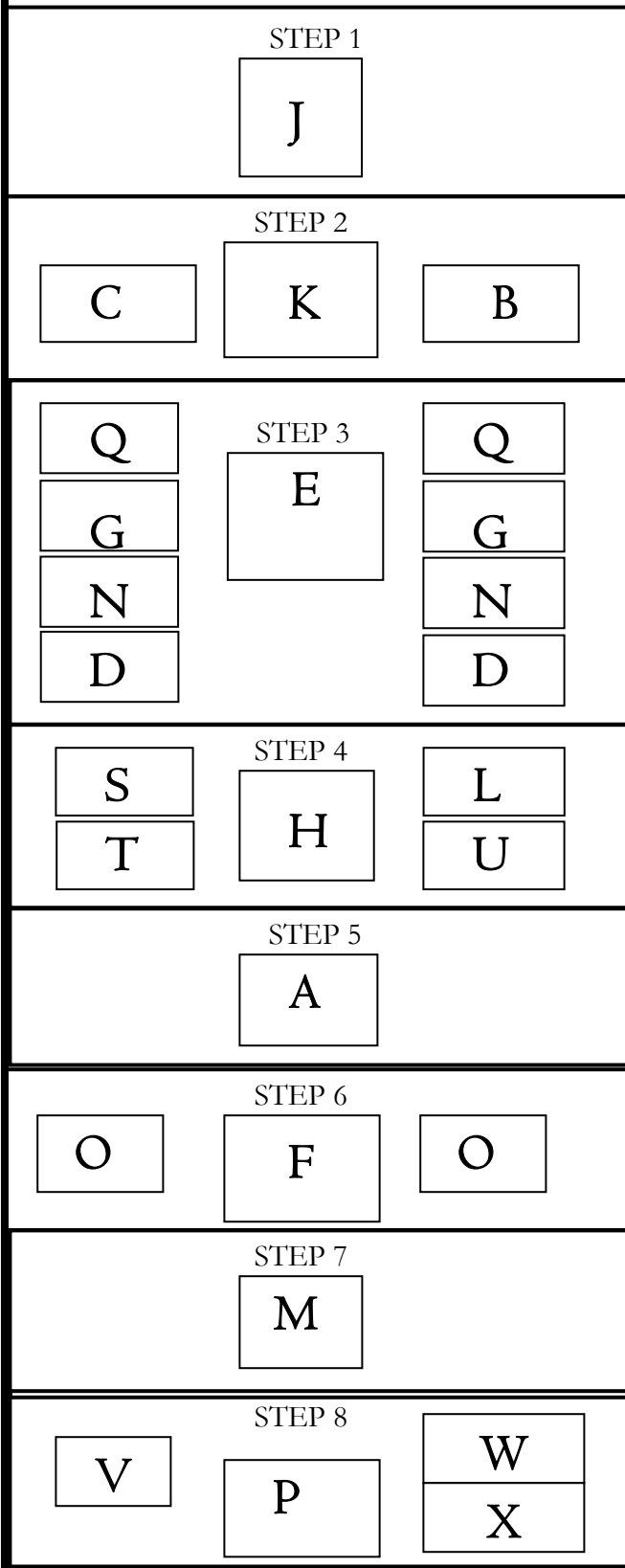
Directions – Write the letter of each of the following steps in the correct place on the chart on the left. Some will be used in more than one place (more than once).

- A. Approved version of bill crosses over to other chamber where it must go through the same process
- B. Bill is dropped in the hopper
- C. Bill is read aloud formally on the floor and given to clerk
- D. Can be reported favorably, unfavorably, or tabled by committee
- E. Bill referred for committee action
- F. Conference committee
- G. Expert testimony re: bill's topic
- H. Floor
- I. Chamber whose membership is based upon population
- J. Idea generated from a citizen, member of congress, etc.
- K. Bill written, sponsored and introduced by member(s) of a chamber
- L. Debate usually limited to 1 hour
- M. Majority of both houses must approve revised bill from conference committee
- N. Markup occurs (changes, additions are made)
- O. Members from each chamber meet to reconcile different versions of same bill
- P. passed bill sent to the President
- Q. Public hearings usually in subcommittees
- R. Each state receives two members in this chamber
- S. Unlimited debate unless a cloture vote to end a filibuster
- T. Voting takes place (roll call, standing, or voice)
- U. Voting takes place (standing, voice, or recorded)
- V. Sign bill into law
- W. Veto bill
- X. Pocket veto



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

## Review



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Source: Wilson, Melissa. Social Studies teacher. Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA, 2005