1. Compare the size of the Senate to the size of the House of Representatives.

2. Describe how senators are elected.

3. Explain how and why a senator’s term differs from a representative’s term.

4. Describe the qualifications for election to the Senate.
Key Terms

- **continuous body**: a political body in which all of the seats are never up for election at the same time
- **constituency**: the people and interests represented by a politician
Introduction

How does the Senate differ from the House?

– The Senate has only 100 members, two from each state.
– Members are elected to six-year terms.
– Senators must be at least 30 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, and reside in the state they represent.
– Senators are often seen as less subject to public pressure and more concerned about national issues than members of the House.
• The size of the Senate changes as new states are admitted to the Union.
  – The Senate began with 22 members in 1789.

• Senators tend to represent a much larger and broader range of citizens than representatives.
  – Each Senator represents his or her entire state, while only seven representatives are elected at large from their entire state as opposed to a congressional district.
The Millionaires’ Club

• Senators were originally elected by state legislatures rather than by popular vote.

  – In the late 1880s, the Senate was called the Millionaires’ Club because legislatures often elected wealthy political party and business leaders.
The 17th Amendment

• Checkpoint: How were senators chosen before and after the passage of the 17th Amendment?

  – In 1913, the 17th amendment changed the way Senators were elected.
  – Senators are now elected by popular vote in statewide elections.
  – Only one senator is elected from a state during any given election.

Checkpoint Answer: Before the 17th Amendment, they were selected by state legislatures; afterward, they have been chosen by popular vote in statewide elections.
Senate Terms

- There are no limits on how many six-year terms a Senator can serve.

- Senate terms are staggered so that one third of them expire every two years.
  - All the seats in the Senate are never up for election at the same time.

- If a senator dies, resigns, or is expelled, they are typically replaced by a person appointed by the governor of their state until a special election can be held.
Senators are thought of as being more focused on national issues and are more likely to be seen as national political leaders than members of the House. Why?

– Due to their longer terms in office, Senators are seen as less susceptible than representatives to the pressures of public opinion.

– Senators represent larger and more diverse constituencies than representatives in the House, and can champion public policies that appeal to many Americans.
• Senators receive more national and home state media exposure than members of the House,
• Senators often use this publicity to help them launch presidential campaigns.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: In above image, a bipartisan group of senators holds a press conference.
Senators: Policy and Prestige

- Senators are Washington celebrities - members of what is often called “the world's most exclusive club.”
- Their names are frequently household words and their activities draw media coverage that allows them to call attention to issues that they deem important.
- Many senators use the spotlight to launch presidential campaigns.
Qualifications

- Senators must meet a stricter set of requirements for office than members of the House of Representatives.

- The Framers set these requirements, as well as the longer terms in office, because they wanted the Senate to be a more enlightened and responsible legislative body than the House.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Above image shows Senator Edward Kennedy.
Informal Qualifications

• To be electable, senators must also meet informal qualifications.
  – These can include party affiliation, gender, ethnicity, name recognition, and being an incumbent.

• Fundraising is also vital for successful senate campaigns.

Analyzing Political Cartoons Question: The senator is sitting behind a desk, suggesting that it is his office, and the speakers sound like campaign consultants.
Senate Discipline

The Senate has the power to discipline its members or refuse to seat an elected member.

- The Senate can expel a member with a two thirds vote or punish them with a majority vote.

- The Senate has expelled 15 members, most of them senators who supported secession during the Civil War.

- The threat of expulsion or the embarrassment of being publicly denounced by the Ethics Committee has led some senators to resign.
• Now that you have learned how the Senate differs from the House, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
  – Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?