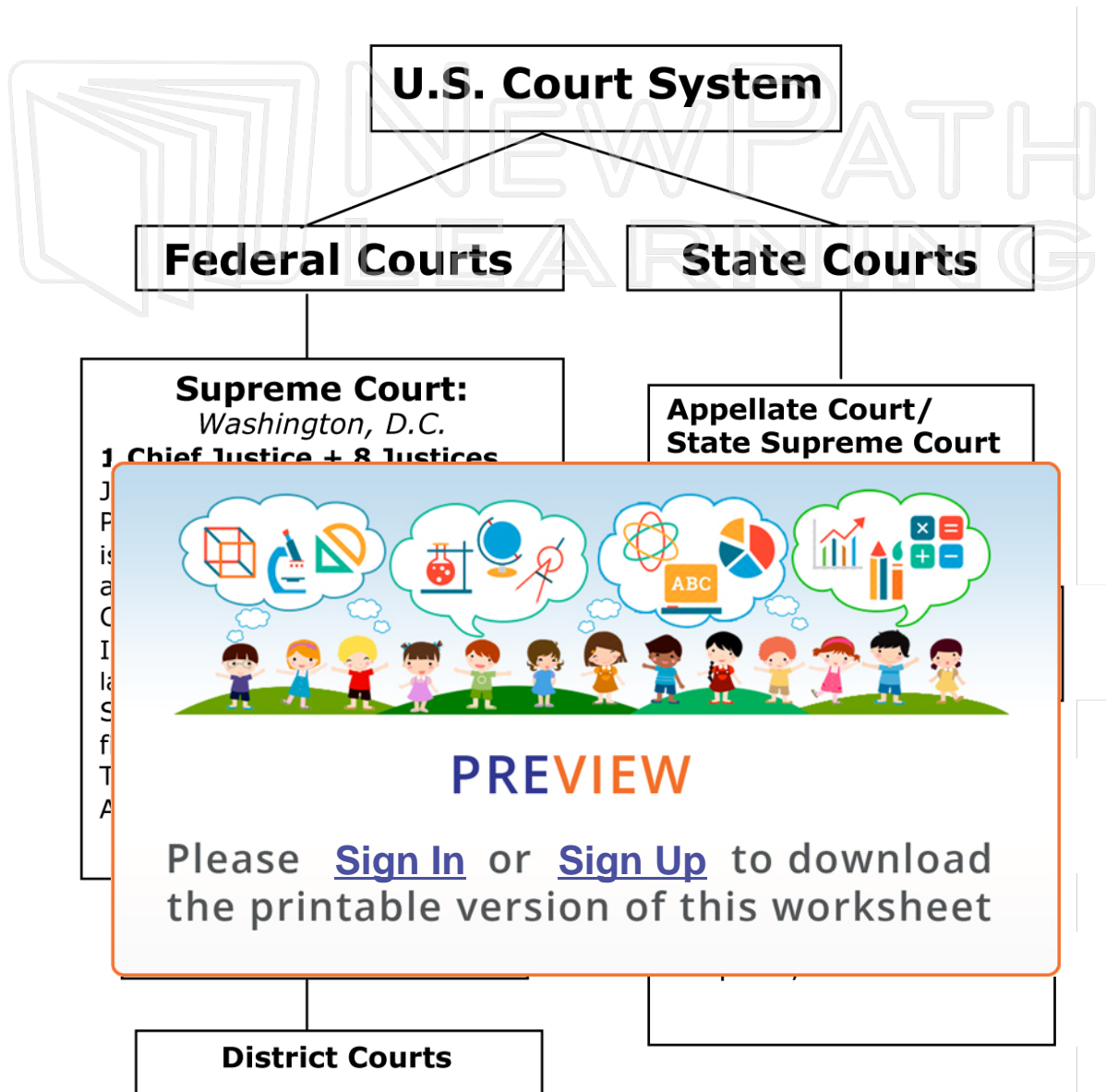


## THE U.S. COURT SYSTEM



The U.S. has a court system (judicial branch) for many reasons:

- To decide the meaning of laws
- To punish criminals
- To keep the other branches of government in check
- To help people with things like marriage, adoption, divorce, citizenship, bankruptcy, discrimination
- To make sure that the Constitution is being followed

Every U.S. citizen has the opportunity to serve the country through **jury duty**. Many court decisions are made by a jury. A **jury** is a group of people who listen to evidence in a trial and decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty. This is called giving a **verdict**.

**Try This!**

Circle examples of state courts.

U.S. Supreme Court

County Court

Circuit Court

Traffic Court

U.S. District Court

Appellate Court

Circle

Geo

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**PREVIEW**

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All of the following are reasons we have a court except for one. Put an X through the option that is not a reason we have a court system.

punish criminals

help keep the Constitution

elect the President

deal with bankruptcy

help with divorce

decide what laws mean