

Name: _____

Supreme Court Podcast Assignment #1

Radio Lab Presents: More Perfect Kittens Kick The Giggly Blue Robot All Summer

Instructions: Answer the following questions while listening to the episode of the podcast. The podcast is "More Perfect" presented by RadioLab and WNYC studios. The episode can also be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3qGPDB5zoM&t=103s>

1. What fraction of Americans cannot identify a single Supreme Court justice?
2. If you go back to the early 1800's where was the Supreme Court meeting?
3. How many justices were on the original Supreme Court?
4. How did most early Supreme Court justices spend their time?
5. What is the Constitution "embarrassingly silent" about?
6. What key Supreme Court justice arrives in 1801?
7. Who was the justice in question 7's second cousin? What was their relationship like?
8. What do the Federalists love?
9. What views does Jefferson's party hold?
10. What happens in the elections of 1800?
11. What does Adams do in the "waning seconds" of his presidency?
12. What is a commission?

13. How does Jefferson see the new judges?
14. What does Jefferson do to the Supreme Court term in 1802?
15. What does Marshall do to “professionalize” the Supreme Court?
16. What does Jefferson do to the undelivered commissions?
17. What does Marbury demand in his lawsuit?
18. Why is Marshall afraid to rule against Jefferson?
19. In the beginning of his opinion what does Marshall do?
20. What did Marshall find unconstitutional?
21. What power is Marshall claiming for the Supreme Court in the Marbury decision?
22. What happens 30 years down the road with Andrew Jackson and the Supreme Court?
23. What happens in the 1950’s with President Eisenhower and 60’s with President Kennedy?
24. Who besides the government has to go along with the court’s decisions?

Stop at the 32:30 mark if you would like

25. Critical Thinking: Do you believe the Supreme Court has too much power today? Explain in a good and thoughtful paragraph.