

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Activity Book





© 2024 SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
CAT. NO. JU5-24/2024
ISBN 978-0-660-71593-3

Welcome, wise learners and curious minds!

My name is **Amicus** and I have been chosen to represent the highest court in the country. Did you know that owls are known to represent wisdom and learning?

Today, I need your help to learn more about my role as ambassador of the Supreme Court.

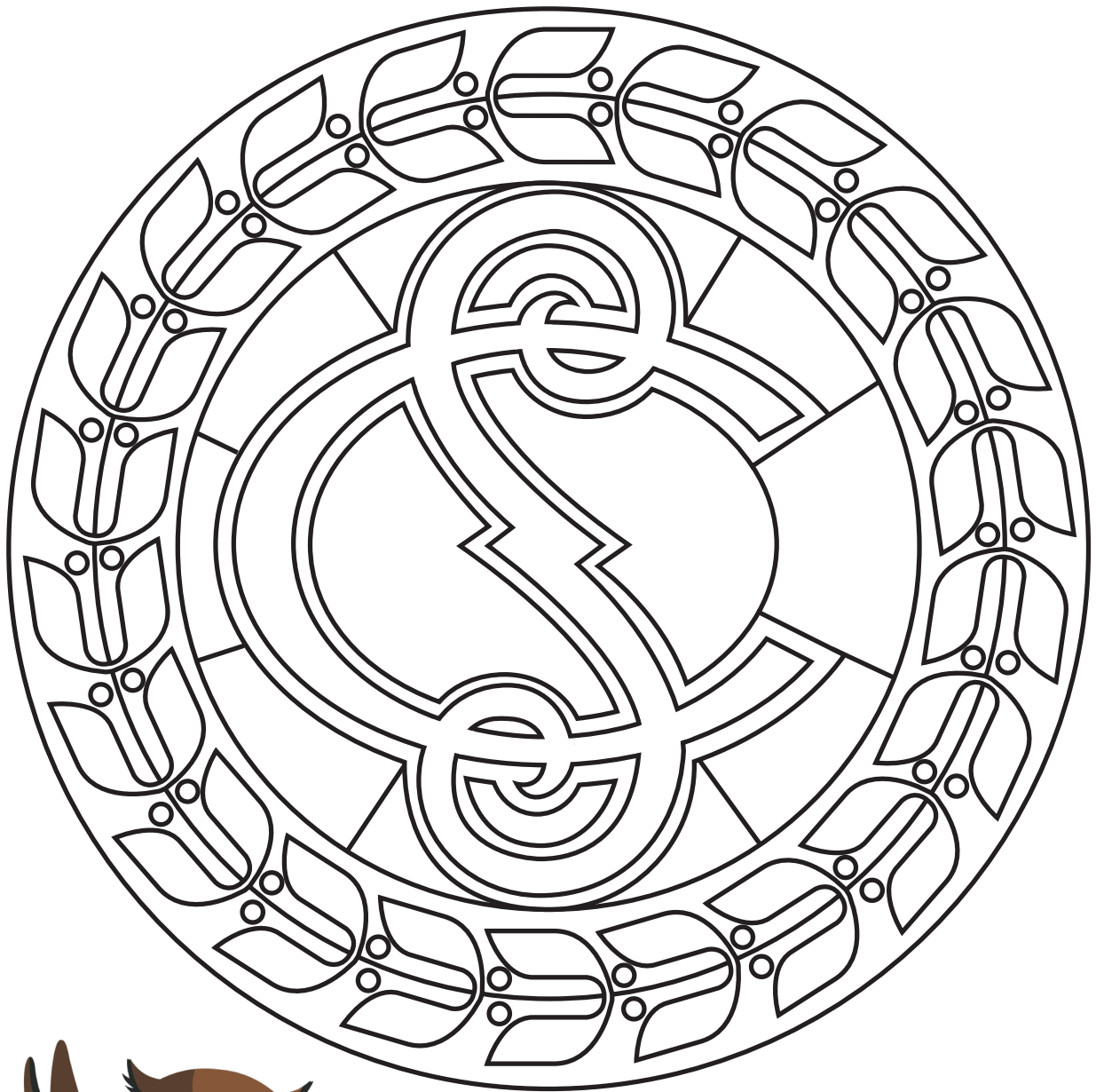


The Supreme Court of Canada stands at the top of the Canadian judicial system. That is why we say that it is Canada's highest court. This also means that its decisions are final. The cases heard by the Supreme Court of Canada are those that raise questions of public importance or important questions of law.

Let's spread our wings and test our knowledge of Canada's highest court!



Colour the crest



The crest of the Supreme Court is inlaid in the centre of the marble floor of the grand entrance hall. It consists of the letters S and C encircled by a garland of leaves and was designed by Ernest Cormier, the building's architect.

Let's play detective

Find the words and use the remaining letters to find a hidden phrase.

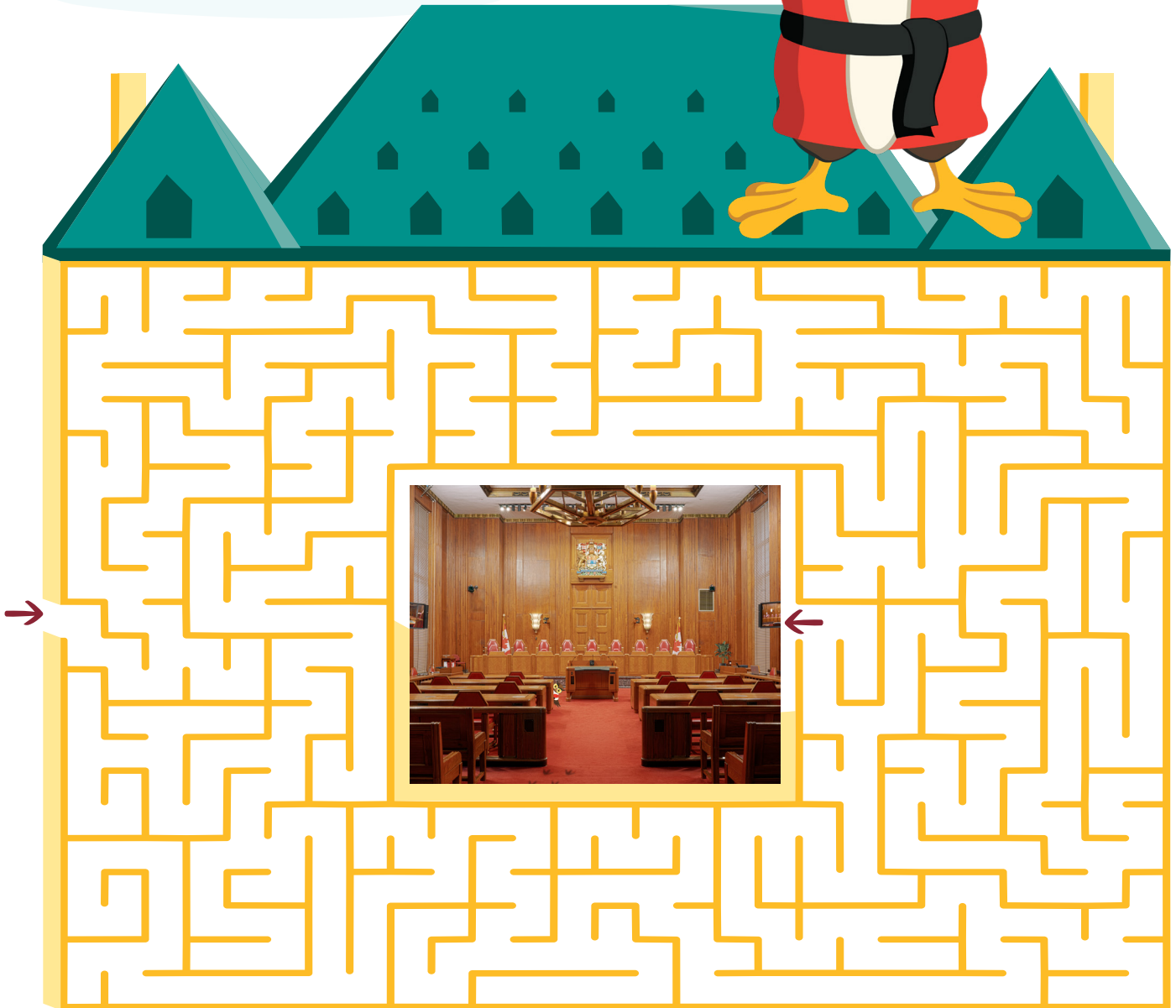
A	C	G	A	L	F	K	R	E	L	C	W	A	L	J
C	D	O	I	N	T	E	R	V	E	N	E	R	S	U
I	A	A	N	A	W	A	T	T	O	H	I	G	S	R
V	T	S	N	S	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	H	U	I
I	N	E	E	A	T	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	P	S
L	E	S	T	S	C	I	S	E	G	D	U	J	R	P
A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	V	E	R
N	N	M	O	O	R	T	R	U	O	C	C	O	M	U
I	O	L	A	W	Y	E	R	U	T	N	I	N	E	D
M	P	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	S	I	R	U	J	E
I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

Hidden phrase: _____

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE | COURTROOM | JURISDICTION | PRECEDENT |
| APPEAL | CRIMINAL | JURISPRUDENCE | PROVINCIAL |
| APPELLANT | FEDERAL | JUSTICE | REFERENCE |
| CANADA | FLAG | LAW CLERK | RESPONDENT |
| CASES | HEARING | LAWYER | ROBE |
| CIVIL | INTERVENERS | NINE | SUPREME |
| CONSTITUTIONAL | JUDGES | OTTAWA | |

A-maze-ing maze

I seem to be lost! Can you help me find my way to the courtroom?



True or false?

Circle the correct answer. For more interesting facts, see the answer key at the end of the book!



1

The Court's flag that flies on the pole to the **east** is hoisted daily.

TRUE FALSE

2

The statues **Justice** and **Truth** were found in a parking lot.

TRUE FALSE

3

Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada are appointed for life.

TRUE FALSE

4

The **Chief Justice** of Canada has the final say in all the Court's decisions.

TRUE FALSE

5

The Supreme Court of Canada has always been made up of 9 judges.

TRUE FALSE

6

Members of the public can attend hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada.

TRUE FALSE

7

At Supreme Court of Canada hearings, **interpreters** translate everything from English to French, and from French to English.

TRUE FALSE

Who does what?

Find each person's role at the Supreme Court.

A Person who presents arguments to the Court.



E Person who is appealing the decision of a lower court.



B Person who takes the public on tours of the building and explains the role of the Supreme Court of Canada.



F Person who translates what is being said in the courtroom.



C Person who is not directly involved in a case but is granted permission to present their own views to the Court.



G Person who helps a judge with their judicial duties and takes notes during the hearing.



D Person who makes a decision in a case.



H Person who responds to an appeal.



word bank

1

Judge

2

Lawyer

3

Interpreter

4

Appellant

5

Guide

6

Law clerk

8

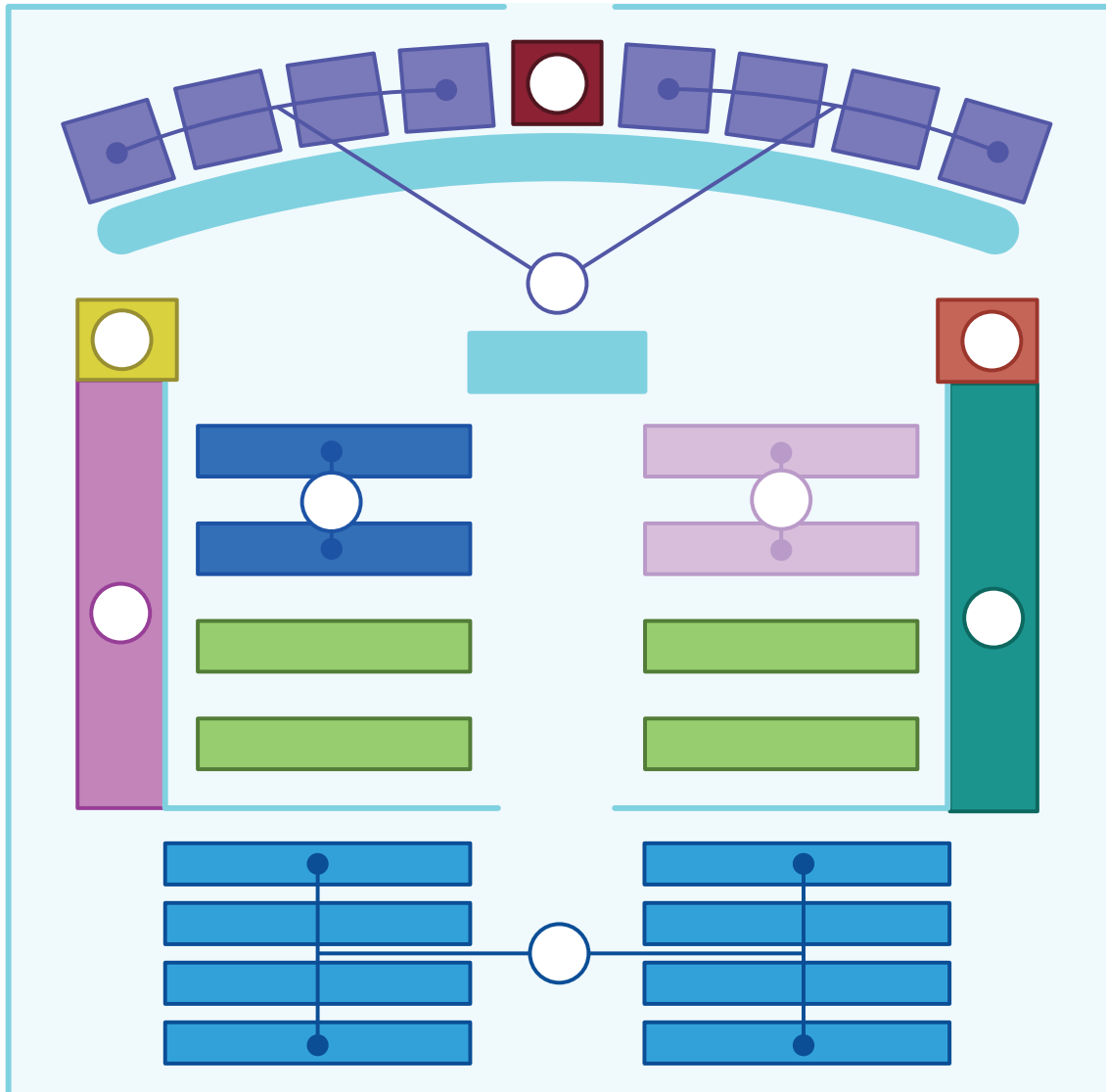
Respondent

7

Intervener

Where do they sit?

Someone erased the words off the page and I don't remember where everyone sits in the courtroom. Can you help me?



- 1 Counsel for the appellants
- 2 Public
- 3 Registry officer
- 4 Court attendant
- 5 Chief Justice

- 6 Counsel for the respondents
- 7 Media
- 8 Law clerks
- 9 Judges

Test yourself!

Do you know the answers? Test your knowledge on these multiple choice questions.

- 1. How many judges sit at the Supreme Court of Canada?**
 - A. 3
 - B. 15
 - C. 9
- 2. Who was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada?**
 - A. Beverley McLachlin
 - B. Claire L'Heureux-Dubé
 - C. Bertha Wilson
- 3. How many applications for leave to appeal does the Court receive each year?**
 - A. Between 150 and 225
 - B. Between 500 and 600
 - C. Between 1200 and 1300
- 4. What is the colour of the robes worn by the judges at hearings?**
 - A. Black
 - B. Red
 - C. Blue
- 5. What is jurisprudence?**
 - A. A collection of past court decisions
 - B. The name for the judges' bench
 - C. The last name of the architect of the Supreme Court of Canada building
- 6. What do we call people who are not directly involved in a case but are granted permission to present their own views to the Court?**
 - A. Law clerks
 - B. Journalists
 - C. Interveners
- 7. When was the cornerstone of the current Supreme Court of Canada building laid?**
 - A. May 20, 1875
 - B. May 20, 1939
 - C. May 20, 1946



Spot the differences

These pictures may look the same, but there are **9** differences between them. Can you spot them all?



Crossword

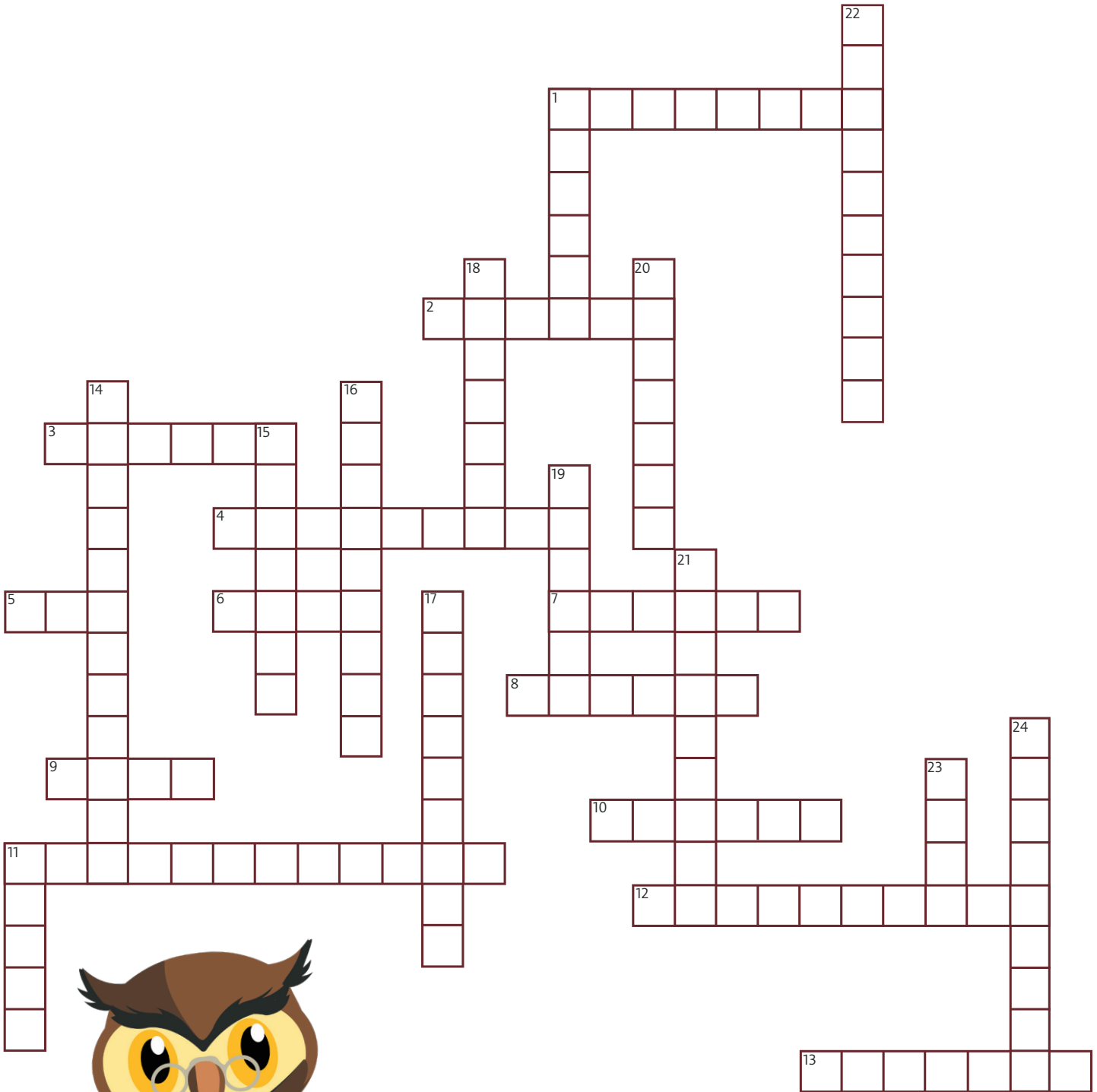
Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle.

Across

1. The final decision by a court.
2. Old French term meaning *younger* used to distinguish the other 8 judges from the Chief Justice.
3. The hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada are open to the _____ .
4. A previous legal decision taken as a guide for subsequent cases.
5. The primary colour of the Supreme Court of Canada judges' ceremonial robe.
6. The total number of Supreme Court of Canada judges.
7. The process by which one asks a higher court to reconsider a decision of a lower court.
8. A person acting on behalf of another in legal matters.
9. Minimum number of judges required to hear an appeal (also called a *quorum*).
10. Country where Amicus lives.
11. Flown daily in front of the building, on the flagpole to the west. (2 words)
12. The party who responds to an appeal.
13. The _____ Court is the highest court in Canada.

Down

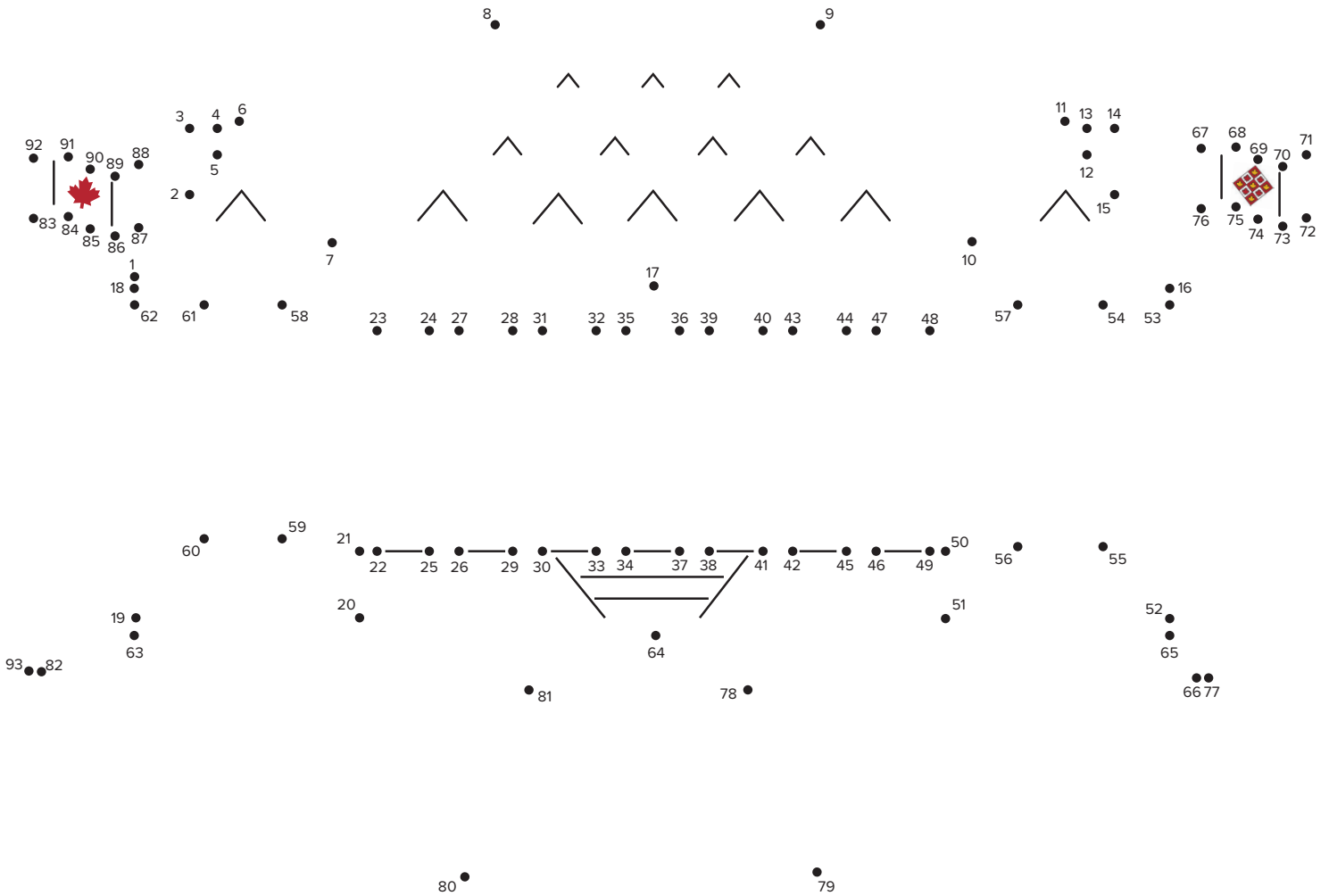
1. They are appointed to hear and try cases in a court of justice.
11. A monarch's jewelled headdress. It is also a reminder that Canada is a constitutional monarchy.
14. The legal authority to handle matters within a specific area.
15. The renowned Montréal architect who designed the Supreme Court building.
16. People who assist the judges in their judicial duties, helping them with research and taking notes during the proceedings. (2 words)
17. The party appealing a court decision.
18. A term meaning fairness, or the name of one of the statues located in front of the Supreme Court of Canada building.
19. The city in which the Supreme Court of Canada is located.
20. The level of government that passes laws affecting all Canadians.
21. The process by which the Governor in Council asks important questions to the Supreme Court of Canada.
22. Interest group, association or attorney general granted permission to present their own views on a case.
23. Garment worn by judges and lawyers.
24. Where trials or hearings take place.



What is this?



Help me solve this puzzle by connecting the dots.



Judge facts

Learn more about the judges of the Supreme Court.
Use the numbers in the box below to fill in the blanks.

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of Canada and _____
puisne judges. The judges are appointed by the Governor in Council from
among superior court judges or Canadians who have been lawyers for at
least _____ years. A judge holds office until they retire or attain the
age of _____ years.

Of the _____ judges, the *Supreme Court Act* requires that _____
judges be appointed from Quebec. Traditionally, the Governor in Council
appoints _____ judges from Ontario, _____ from the Western
provinces or Northern Canada and _____ from the Atlantic provinces.
The judges must devote themselves exclusively to their judicial duties and
must reside within _____ km of the National Capital Region.

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner was appointed to the Supreme
Court of Canada on October 5, 2012 and appointed Chief Justice of
Canada on December _____, 2017.

10 **9** **3** **75** **2**
3 **18** **40** **1** **8**

Find the shadow

Channel your inner judge, pay close attention to detail, compare shapes and angles, and choose my shadow wisely!



Word scramble

I got a little too playful with words and now they're all scrambled up. Quick, lend me a hand to unscramble them before the next court hearing.

EICUTJS

_____ C _____

MSPRUEE TOCRU

_____ E _____ O _____

ADANCA

ASCIUM

_____ S _____

JGSEUD

EECNROMY

C _____ M _____

RSOEB

WLA

TTUHR

_____ T _____

ARGHNEI

H _____ R _____ G _____

CAES

RUTOMCOOR

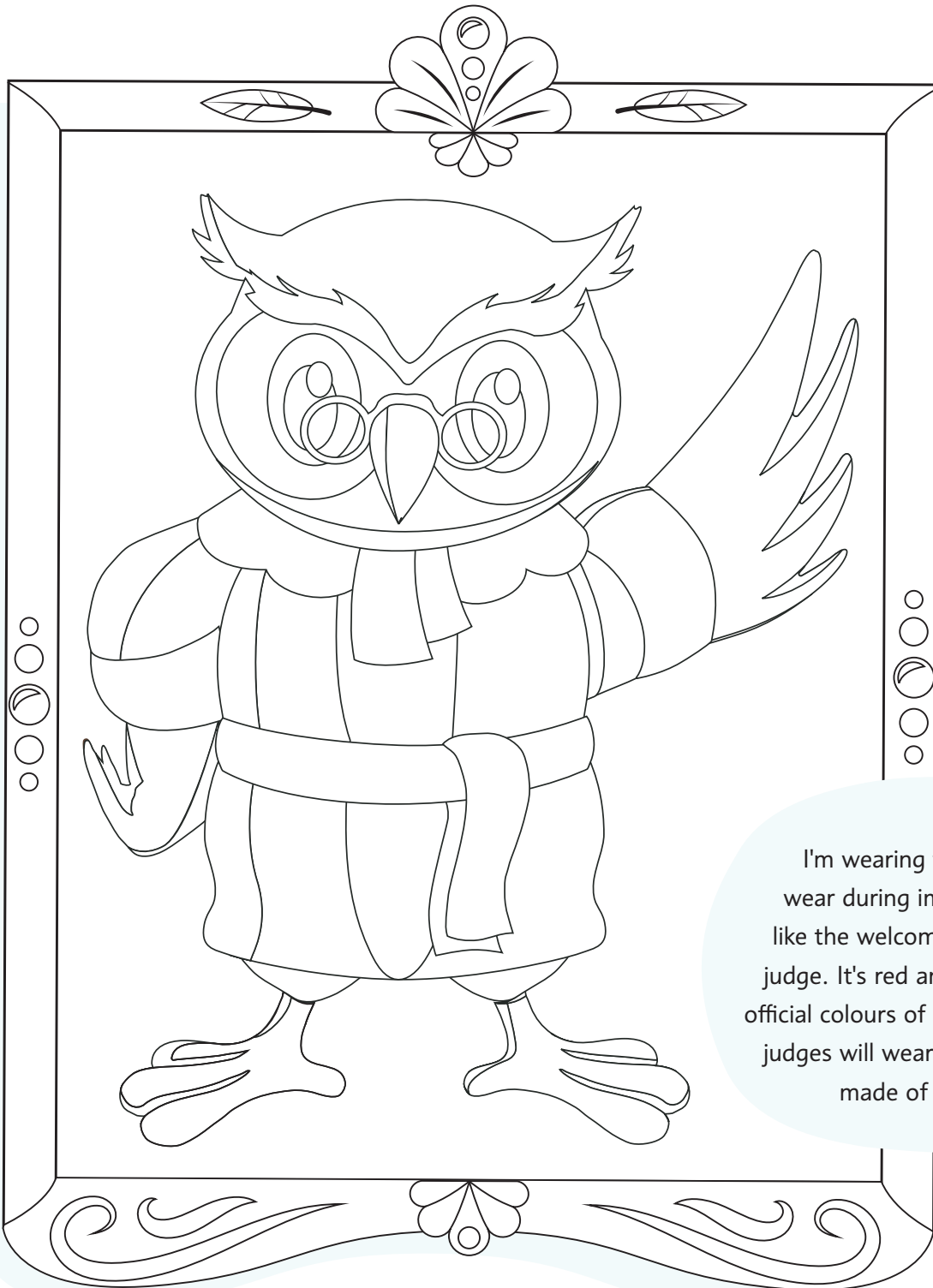
_____ O _____

OUNROAELHB

O _____ B _____

Colour me

Use your colouring skills to help me complete my official portrait!

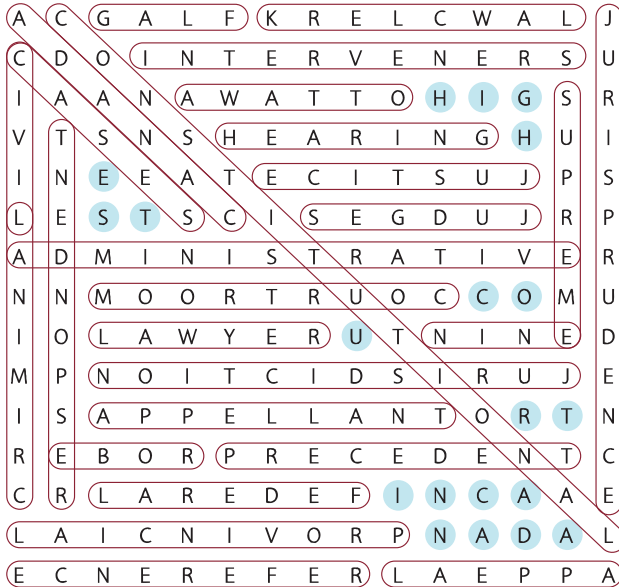


I'm wearing the robe the judges wear during important ceremonies, like the welcome ceremony for a new judge. It's red and white, which are the official colours of Canada. At hearings, the judges will wear black robes, which are made of lighter material.

PAGE 5

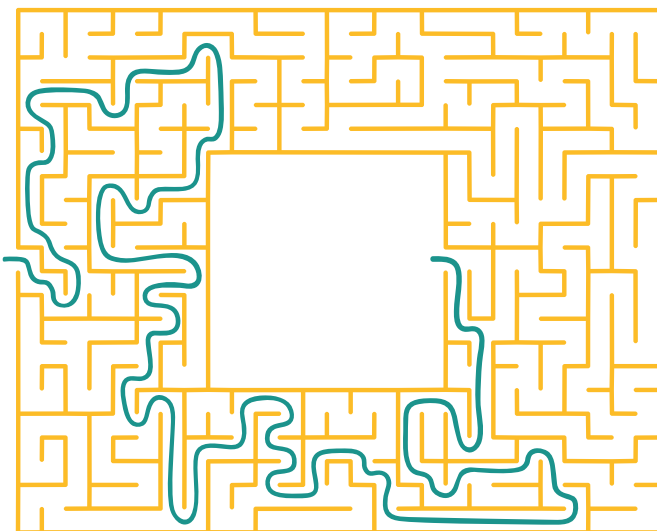
Word search

Solution: "Highest Court in Canada"



PAGE 6

Maze



PAGE 8

What do they do?

A-2 • B-5 • C-7 • D-1 • E-4 • F-3 • G-6 • H-8

PAGE 7

True or false

1. The Court's flag that flies on the pole to the east is hoisted daily.

FALSE

There are 2 flagpoles in front of the building. The Canadian flag flies permanently on the west pole, while the Supreme Court's flag is raised on the east pole only when the Court is sitting.

2. The statues **Justice** and **Truth** were found in a parking lot.

TRUE

The statues were created by Walter S. Allward for a memorial to King Edward VII, which was never finished. Forgotten, they were rediscovered buried in a parking lot in 1969. They were then placed in front of the Supreme Court in August 1970.

3. Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada are appointed for life.

FALSE

Judges of the Supreme Court can remain in office until the age of 75, at which time they must retire.

4. The Chief Justice of Canada has the final say in all the Court's decisions.

FALSE

Decisions of the Court are made by the majority of judges. Judges who disagree with the majority result are "dissenting". Any judge can explain their opinion in writing if they want to.

5. The Supreme Court of Canada has always been made up of 9 judges.

FALSE

When the court first sat in 1876, the bench was composed of 6 judges. The number was increased to 7 in 1927 and to the current 9 in 1949.

6. Members of the public can attend hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada.

TRUE

In addition to people involved in a specific case, members of the public can attend hearings.

7. At Supreme Court of Canada hearings, *interpreters* translate everything from English to French, and from French to English.

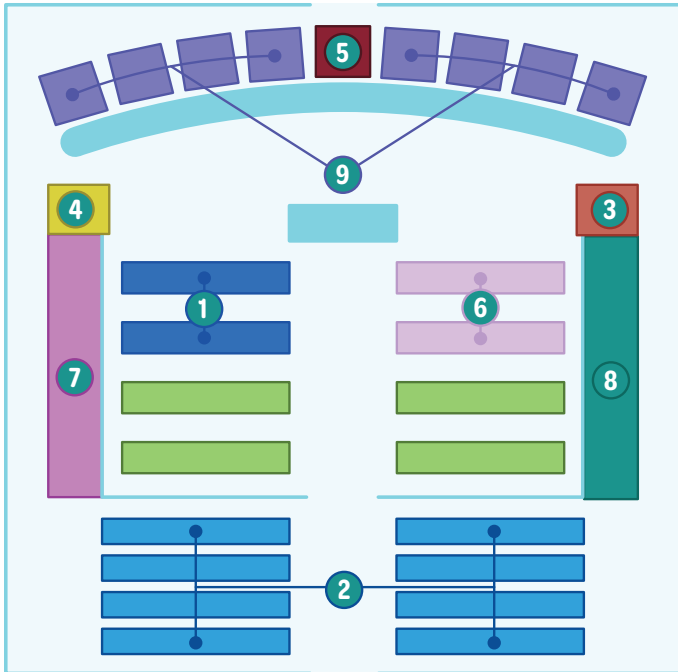
TRUE

At every hearing, each speaker may speak in either official language and their words are translated by an interpreter.

Answers

PAGE 9

Where do they sit?



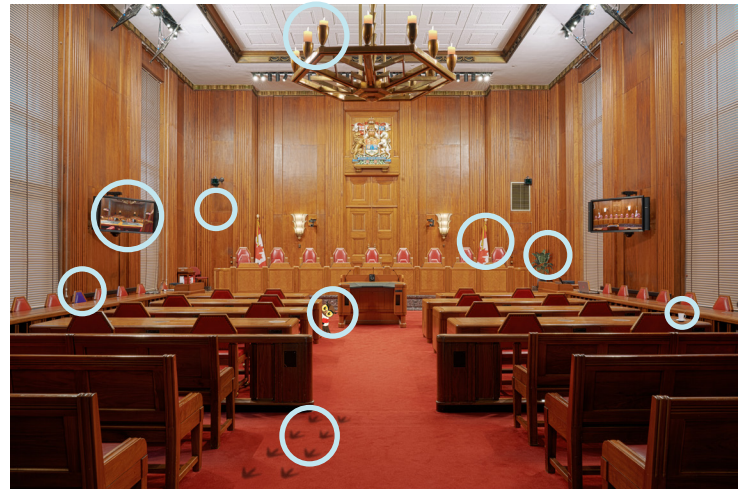
PAGE 10

Multiple choice questions

- 1. C** There are 9 judges that sit at the Supreme Court of Canada.
- 2. C** On March 4, 1982, the Honourable Bertha Wilson became the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin is the first woman to become Chief Justice of Canada.
- 3. B** The Court receives between 500 and 600 applications for leave to appeal every year.
- 4. A** The judges wear black silk robes at hearings. They wear ceremonial bright red robes trimmed with Canada white mink only in the Senate at the opening of new sessions of Parliament and at the Court on special occasions, such as when a new judge is welcomed to the Court.
- 5. A** Jurisprudence is a collection of past court decisions.
- 6. C** At the Supreme Court of Canada, interveners can present arguments.
- 7. B** The cornerstone was laid by Queen Elizabeth in the presence of her husband, King George VI, on May 20, 1939. The inscription says "May 19, 1939", which was the intended date; however, the King and Queen arrived in Ottawa a day late because of bad weather during their trip to Canada.

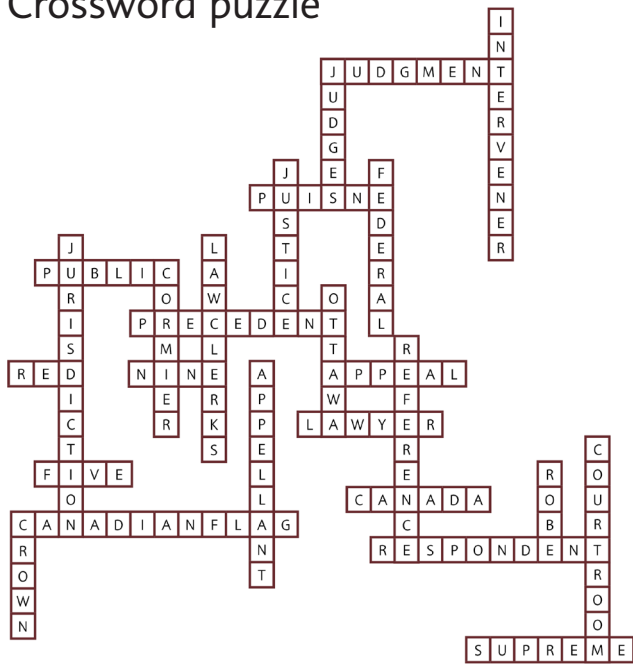
PAGE 11

Spot the differences



PAGE 13

Crossword puzzle



PAGE 15

Judge facts

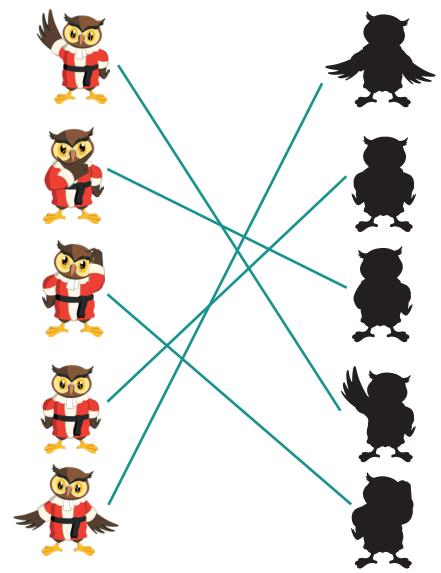
The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and **8** puisne judges. The judges are appointed by the Governor in Council from among superior court judges or Canadians who have been lawyers for at least **10** years. A judge holds office until they retire or attain the age of **75** years.

Of the **9** judges, the *Supreme Court Act* requires that **3** judges be appointed from Quebec. Traditionally, the Governor in Council appoints **3** judges from Ontario, **2** from the Western provinces or Northern Canada and **1** from the Atlantic provinces. The judges must devote themselves exclusively to their judicial duties and must reside within **40** km of the National Capital Region.

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada on October 5, 2012 and appointed Chief Justice of Canada on December **18**, 2017.

PAGE 16

Find the shadow



PAGE 17

Word scramble

J U S T I C E

S U P R E M E C O U R T

C A N A D A

A M I C U S

J U D G E S

C E R E M O N Y

R O B E S

L A W

T R U T H

H E A R I N G

C A S E

C O U R T R O O M

H O N O U R A B L E



Let's fly together into the world of the Supreme Court.

Located in the heart of Ottawa and next to the Parliament buildings, the Supreme Court of Canada offers you a unique opportunity to understand the Court's role in shaping Canada's legal landscape.

Book a tour with one of our expert tour guides. If you can't leave the nest, remote tours are also available.

Our tour guides are law students with a passion for sharing their knowledge about the Court, judges and the building with curious young Canadians like yourself.

Tour information and reservations

Email: tour-visite@scc-csc.ca

Tel: 613-995-5361

Toll free: 1-866-360-1522

www.scc-csc.ca

