A Conversation with Chief Justice John Roberts:
The Origin, Nature, and Importance of the US Supreme Court
Disc Three

Name_____

Date_____ Period_____

As you watch the program, answer the following questions.

1. According to Chief Justice John Roberts, what is the role of the Supreme Court?

2. Which article of the Constitution addresses the courts? Why is it shorter than the other articles?

3. How do cases get to the Supreme Court? How many cases are petitioned each year? What percentage are actually heard?

4. Describe the experience of a lawyer going before the Supreme Court. Why must they spend extra time preparing?

5. What is a "brief"? What is an "amicus brief"? How does the Court keep track of the briefs?

6. What days of the week does the Supreme Court hold hearings on cases?

7. What determines the speaking order at their weekly conferences?

8. Who determines who will write the majority and minority opinions?

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9. Why are “opinions” so important?

10. According to John Roberts, who was the greatest Chief Justice? Why?

11. Who sets the number of justices on the Supreme Court?

12. What misconceptions exist about the Supreme Court?

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