

WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Middle School level

Grade	Strand	Standard	Code	Benchmark
6	Citizenship and Government	Rights and Responsibilities	6.1.3.1	Summarize the concept of citizenship in the U.S.
7	Citizenship and Government	Rights and Responsibilities	7.1.3.1	Explain landmark Supreme Court decisions

Core Concept: How does the judicial branch of government bring justice to the people?

Preliminary Activities

- Resources exploring key concepts:
 - [Judicial Branch in a Flash](#)
 - [Amendments Mini Lesson](#)
 - [Equal Protection Clause](#)
 - [Due Process Definition for Kids \(video\)](#)
- Documents exploring important U.S. Supreme Court cases:
 - [Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. 137 \(1803\)](#)
 - [Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 \(1967\)](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Justice can look different depending on who you ask. How would you define justice? What do you think its goal should be?
2. The Supreme Court created the process of “judicial review” in the 1803 case Marbury v. Madison. What does this mean?
3. Why are the courts so important?
4. What are some of the rights that the constitution guarantees for all citizens?
5. What does the Equal Protection Clause do?
6. How did the Supreme Court use the Equal Protection Clause in Loving v. Virginia?

7. What sorts of protections do people have because of the Due Process Clauses?