



## Department of Justice: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The Department of Justice, also known as the Justice Department or the DOJ, is an executive department of the government of the United States that is responsible for law enforcement. The Department of Justice is headed by the attorney general and contains several law enforcement agencies, the most prominent of which is the FBI.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Politics</li> </ul>	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
<a href="https://academy4sc.org/topic/department-of-justice-justice-for-all/">https://academy4sc.org/topic/department-of-justice-justice-for-all/</a>	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the Department of Justice’s primary function</li> <li>• Describe the basic role of the attorney general</li> <li>• Name several of the key agencies within the DOJ</li> </ul>	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Antitrust, attorney general, executive branch, law enforcement	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, computers	
Before you watch	
<p><b>Quick write:</b> Give students 10 minutes to respond to the following prompt. What is justice? What role does law enforcement play in establishing justice? Why is law enforcement necessary or important? If desired, have some students share their thoughts with the class.</p>	



### While you watch

Complete the “while you watch” section of the worksheet.

### After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why is the Justice Department important?
2. The final phrase of the Department of Justice’s mission statement is “to ensure fair and impartial justice for all Americans.” Do you think the DOJ lives up to this standard? Why or why not?
3. What is justice? Why is it fundamentally important?

### Activity Ideas

- **Dig Deeper:** Divide the class into small groups. Assign each group a different part of the DOJ (attorney general, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorneys Office, FBI, BOP, DEA, ATF, Antitrust Division, or others not mentioned in the video). Give each group time to research their assigned agency/office and prepare a short presentation for the rest of the class explaining its functions, using the chart on the worksheet for guidance.
- **Examine the Evidence:** Have students respond in writing to the following prompt. Does the Justice Department really ensure justice for all Americans? After conducting research, find one specific case in which any division of the Justice Department may have failed to provide justice. Explain why you believe the actions taken by the DOJ were unjust and discuss what could have been done differently.

### Sources/places to learn more

1. "150 Years of the Department of Justice.", The United States Department of Justice, 3 Mar. 2020, [www.justice.gov/history/timeline/150-years-department-justice#event-1208301](http://www.justice.gov/history/timeline/150-years-department-justice#event-1208301).
2. "Organization, Mission and Functions Manual.", The United States Department of Justice, 26 Sept. 2019, [www.justice.gov/jmd/organization-mission-and-functions-manual](http://www.justice.gov/jmd/organization-mission-and-functions-manual).
3. "Organizational Chart.", The United States Department of Justice, 5 Feb. 2018, [www.justice.gov/agencies/chart](http://www.justice.gov/agencies/chart).