



Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Lesson Plan

Topic	
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, fondly known as RBG, was the second woman ever appointed to the Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg gained the affectionate nickname "The Notorious RBG" in response to her legacy of breaking barriers and silences in the Supreme Court, especially in defense of women's rights and social justice. RBG is an inspiration and a leader to many who fight for what they care about.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
U.S. History, Government, Civics, Social Studies	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/ruth-bader-ginsburg-the-notorious-rbg/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
Students will be able to...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe Ruth Bader Ginsburg's importance as a historical figure.• Identify how RBG's legacy impacts our lives today.• Explain why representation in the Supreme Court is important.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Supreme Court, Dissent, Constitution	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Paper and pens for students	
Before you watch	
Think-pair-share: Ask students to write or draw about what they think the Supreme Court bench looks like: who are the justices and what do they look like? Also, ask students to write down a number for how many women they think have been on the Supreme Court. Then, gather students in pairs or small groups and	



have them share responses. Debrief as a class: show a photo of the Supreme Court justices and ask students if it looks balanced, if it looks like it represents everyone in the U.S. Also, tell students there have only been three women on the Supreme Court since it began in 1789.

While you watch

Answer questions 1 and 2 on Worksheet, and think about questions 3 and 4.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why was Ruth Bader Ginsburg an important person in U.S. history?
2. What lasting influences does Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy have on our lives?
3. Why is representation important in the Supreme Court?

Activity Ideas

- Ask students to draw or write a description of someone who they would want to see on the Supreme Court bench to best feel represented as a citizen. They could want to see someone from their own ethnic background, their own hometown, their own gender, or any intersection of representation. Have students share who they drew or wrote about as a representative, and write them on the board. Show students the diversity in the representatives they created by going through the different answers on the board and emphasizing how important representation is to make sure everyone's voices are heard when laws are being made and considered.
- Have students write a journal entry about what gender equality means to them. Ask students to imagine having nine women on the Supreme Court and write about how that makes them feel and what kind of society they would imagine that to be.

Sources/places to learn more

1. Julie Cohen and Betsy West, 2018, "RBG," Magnolia Pictures. [RBG Movie](#).
2. BBC News, 2020, "[Ruth Bader Ginsburg in pictures and in her own words](#)."
3. University of Richmond, New American History, 2020, "Remembering the Notorious RBG." [RBG Learning Resources](#).
4. History.com, 2020, "Ruth Bader Ginsburg." [Ruth Bader Ginsburg History](#).