



Crime and Punishment

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners

Time required – 15 minutes

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Activity | Explore changes in the death penalty in the United States through time and space. |
| Social Studies Standards | C3:D2.Civ.8.6-8. Analyze ideas and principles contained in the founding documents of the United States, and explain how they influence the social and political system. C3:D2.Civ.14.9-12. Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good. C3:D2.Civ.11.9-12. Evaluate multiple procedures for making governmental decisions at the local, state, national, and international levels in terms of the civic purposes achieved. |
| Learning Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will interpret map data as they identify and explain differences in the distribution of the death penalty throughout the United States.• Students will analyze the relationship between executions and prisoners on death row. |

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/govgeoinquiry10>

? Ask

Which states have the death penalty?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- ? Do most states have the death penalty? *[Yes]*
- ? Where are the states with the death penalty located? *[In the West and South]*
- Click the note on Nebraska. Read the pop-up.
- ? Why does Nebraska have the death penalty? *[In a referendum, 61.2% voted to reinstate the death penalty.]*

! Acquire

Why was 1972 a turning point?

- Click any three states and read each pop-up.
- ? What do you notice? *[More executions occurred before 1976.]*
- With the Details button underlined, click the button Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Check the box to the left of the layer name, Court Cases.
- Click the button Bookmarks. Select Court Cases. (See the Bookmark ToolTip on page 2.)
- Click the red pin on Georgia.
- ? What did the U.S. Supreme Court rule? *[The way that the death penalty was imposed was “cruel and unusual” punishment.]*
- ? What was the immediate outcome of the decision? *[It halted executions.]*
- ? How might the states react? *[Change laws]*

🔍 Explore

How did other Supreme Court decisions affect the death sentence?

- Click the blue pin on Georgia. Read the pop-up.
- ? How did the ruling in Gregg v. Georgia affect capital punishment? *[It ruled it constitutional if procedures were followed.]*
- Click the red pin on North Carolina. Read the pop-up.
- ? What did the court rule? *[Mandatory death sentences are unconstitutional.]*
- ? Why do you think that the court ruled that way? *[Individual circumstances must be considered.]*
- Click the red pin on Arizona.
- ? What additional criteria did the court impose? *[A jury, not a judge, should impose a death sentence.]*

more ►

Analyze

How do imprisonment rates vary across the United States?

- Turn off all layers.
- Turn on the layer, Prison Data.
- Click the layer name, Prison Data to see a legend.
- ? What is the incarceration rate used on the map? [*Number imprisoned per 100,000 people in the state*]
- ? Which states have the highest incarceration rates? [*Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas*]
- View the pop-ups of three states. Hover over the bar chart in teh pop-ups.
- ? What do you notice about the different groups imprisoned? [*Much higher rates for African Americans*]

Act

Should the United States abolish the death penalty?

- Turn on the layer, 2017 Executions. Turn on the layer's legend.
- ? Which state had the most executions? [*Texas*]
- Inmates executed were between 37 years old and 75 years old, and spent 8 years to 34 years on death row.
- ? How does the number of executions compare to the number of people on death row? [*Many more are on death row, and few are executed.*]
- ? What might account for the decrease in executions? [*Court appeals and world opinion*]
- ? Do you think executions will increase or decrease? [*Answers will vary.*]

LEGENDS, LAYERS, AND SYMBOLS

- With the Details button underlined, click the button Show Contents of Map. The Contents pane allows you to turn on and off layer visibility.
- Click the button, Legend. The Legend pane allows you to identify symbols.
- On the map, click symbols for more information that will appear in a pop-up.

ZOOM TO A BOOKMARK

- Click the button, Bookmarks.
- Click a bookmark name to zoom to a map location and scale.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Analyze prison data for your state by using the Summarize Within analysis tool.
- Use Survey123 for ArcGIS to collect and investigate knowledge of and attitudes toward the death penalty.



TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *Magruder's American Government by Pearson — Chapter 7*
- *Civics and Economics by Holt — Chapter 16*
- *Government Alive! Politics, Power, and You by Teachers' Curriculum Institute — Chapter 16*