

The Law, the Courts, and Dred Scott

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Overview: Students will understand the ruling significance of Dred Scott v Sanford, as it pertains to slavery, due process, and the Missouri Compromise.

Objectives:

1. Students will analyze and discuss the aspects of the Dred Scott v Sanford case.
2. Students will read and interpret primary documents.
3. Students will analyze and summarize a political cartoon.
4. Students will view photos of Dred Scott's grave markers, answer accompanying questions, and write an epitaph for him.

Time Frame: After having taught the Dred Scott case in a previous class, students will spend two 50 minute class periods on the above activities.

Standards: E1-2.1; E1-4.1; S.S. 8-4.2; and S.S. 8-4.3

Materials:

- SC history textbook
- Primary documents www.history.furman.edu/editorials
- Political cartoon www.indiana.edu/cartoon/madrille.html
- Handouts- [www.streetlaw.org/en/Page/377/How the Case Moved through the Court System](http://www.streetlaw.org/en/Page/377/How_the_Case_Moved_through_the_Court_System), www.digital.wufl.edu/dredscott/chronology, [www.streetlaw.org/en/Page/573/Visit Dred Scotts Grave](http://www.streetlaw.org/en/Page/573/Visit_Dred_Scotts_Grave)
- Paper and Pencil

Procedure:

1. Discussion and review of Dred Scott case; provide handouts of Dred Scott chronology and diagram of case movement through the court system.
2. Students are divided into groups of two or three and given a newspaper editorial to read, interpret, and discuss.
3. Each group presents their interpretation to the class. Allow time for individual questions.
4. Provide copies of political cartoon to each group. Groups will analyze cartoon using the questions provided. Share analysis with classmates.

Assessment: After being shown the three photos of monuments to Dred Scott, students will answer the following two questions.

1. Why do you think the African Historical and Genealogical Research Society paid for a memorial to Dred Scott?
2. What three facts do the monuments include about the Supreme Court's decision?

Create your own memorial for Dred Scott. Draw it on a separate sheet of paper and be sure to include an inscription or epitaph.