



# Crime and Punishment

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners

Time required – 15 minutes

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

**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*