

# Seeking the Source

## Identifying sources and types of law

**Benchmark:** SS.7.C.3.10 Identify sources and types (civil, criminal, constitutional, military) of law.

### Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will use examples of historical law codes to identify how laws originated and developed in Western society.
- Students will recognize constitutional, statutory, case, and common law as sources of law.
- Students will compare civil, criminal, constitutional, and/or military law.

**Time:** One class period

### Materials:

- Seeking the Source PowerPoint
- Computer
- Projector
- Speakers
- Handout A: Seeking the Source

### Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view.” The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

## Lesson Overview

**Warm Up** Tell students that you are going to be looking at different sources and types of law today. Ask if they can name any different types of law (civil, criminal, military, juvenile, constitutional).

**Using the Seeking the Source PowerPoint**, show examples of historical law codes. Cited in the PowerPoint are the Cyrus Cylinder, the Code of Hammurabi, and Magna Carta. Tell students that these are historic “documents” that served as law codes for the people of the time. These are just some of the examples of laws of the past that impacted how laws were developed in Western society.

*Optional extension activity: If students have access to laptops/tablets, have them look up some of the laws included in these historical law codes. Have students share their findings.*

**View the first 3 minutes and 33 seconds of “The Story of Human Rights”**. This production of United for Human Rights<sup>1</sup> will highlight the evolution of natural rights/law in an interesting visual timeline.

**Distribute Handout A**. Students should complete the handout as the presentation progresses. The PowerPoint will recognize the sources of law as the U.S. and Florida Constitutions, federal and state statutes, local ordinances, common law, and case law. Types of law will then be outlined within the presentation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.humanrights.com/#/home>

**Reports on Courts activity:** Students will use their knowledge of the types of law to identify which type of law is being addressed in the news article provided on the PowerPoint slide. Students can work individually or in small groups to identify each type of law in the PowerPoint. This can be done by having students raise their hands, write on white boards, or create signs on paper for each type of law (civil, criminal, constitutional, military, and juvenile). Highlight key words that would help them identify the correct type of court. As an optional extension, also have students identify if the case is taking place in state or federal courts. Highlight key words that would help them identify the correct court.

**Check for Understanding** The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decision.

# Seeking the Source

Directions: Complete the chart below as the PowerPoint progresses. Examples of each type of law will be provided in the PowerPoint.

<b>Sources of Law</b>	

<b>Types of Law</b>	
Type and description	Example <i>Include examples from the news stories during the Seeking the Source activity</i>