



A JUDICIAL LEARNING CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT

GRADE LEVEL: 7-8

LESSON DURATION: 30 MINUTES

Standards:

SS8.2.3 Explain the historical development of the United States Constitution and treaties and how they have shaped the United States and Wyoming government.

SS8.1.4 Understand the difference between United States civil and criminal legal systems.

SS8.1.6 Understand the basic structures of various political systems (e.g. tribal, local, national, and world).



Lesson topic/essential questions:

- What is the rule of law?
- How has the application of the rule of law affected the history of Wyoming?
- How does a judge apply the rule of law to make decisions when cases come before the courts?

Lesson objectives:

- To form a connection between students' everyday lives and the rule of law.
- To develop individual analytical skills.
- To examine the structure of Wyoming's judicial system.

Procedure:

Divide the class into groups of four students. Give each group the set of questions entitled "A Judicial Learning Center Scavenger Hunt." Students should work in groups to answer each question as they tour the Judicial Learning Center. Reconvene in the classroom to discuss answers and debrief.

Assessment:

Assessment will take place as answers are discussed. Have the students keep a tally of the number of questions they answered correctly. In addition to the percentage of correct answers, assessment will include checks for understanding, applying what was learned using the questions as a starting point, evaluations of students' contributions to discussion, and their collaborative work.



SCAVENGER HUNT QUESTIONS

1. What is the Rule of Law?
2. What are the four pillars of the Rule of Law?
3. Name three individual rights guaranteed to citizens of Wyoming and the United States?
4. According to Thomas Jefferson, what should no just government refuse?
5. What does due process mean?
6. What is equal protection?
7. Name the three court systems that exist in Wyoming.
8. What is the county seat of the county where the first JC Penney store was located, the LA Lakers' owner Jerry Buss grew up, and Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner was born?
9. Who is Campbell County named after and what makes him important?
10. What are the five requirements to be a Wyoming Supreme Court Justice?
11. How many state court judges are there in Wyoming?
12. What animal does Paula Turner keep in her apartment? And how long has she kept it there?



13. Why did Todd Wolfe rob the convenience store?
14. Is Paula Turner or Todd Wolfe appearing in criminal court? And how do you know?
15. Who applies the rule of law in our justice system?
16. What kind of animal would make the best judge according to Judge Roberts?
17. What option does Judge Scavdahl use the most when he has to make a ruling on an issue when the law isn't clear?
18. What would Justice Fox be if she wasn't a judge?
19. According to Judge Lavery what are two challenges in being a judge?
20. What case determined that the state regulates water rights in Wyoming? And who owns the water in Wyoming?
21. What year did Wyoming adopt women's voting rights (women's suffrage)? Was that before or after Wyoming became a state?
22. How many articles of the Wyoming Constitution guarantee equal rights?
23. Where did the first woman to vote in a general election in the United States cast her vote?
24. What United States Supreme Court case concluded that the Shoshone Tribe owns the rights to its share of minerals and timber on the Wind River Reservation?



25. How did the Johnson County War of 1892 start?
26. Why didn't the cattlemen get convicted of murder?
27. Name two ways the Wyoming Constitution protected coal miners.
28. Can public schools legally drug test their students?



SCAVENGER HUNT ANSWERS & DISCUSSION GUIDE

Answer key and discussion guide

1. What is the Rule of Law?

A system of laws and justice that protects people's rights and freedoms

2. What are the four pillars of the Rule of Law?

- Government powers are divided
- Individual rights
- Due process
- Equal application of the laws

Discussion point: Not all countries or governments operate with these basic principles. Can you think of one? How would life be different if you lived in one of these countries? Would it be different if you were a different gender? Race? Religion?

3. Name three individual rights guaranteed to citizens of Wyoming and the United States?

- Practice of religion
- Freedom of speech and the press
- Right to petition and assemble
- Right to bear arms
- Right against search and seizure without probable cause
- Right to a jury trial
- Right to not have excessive fines and punishment
- Right to defense counsel in a criminal trial
- Right against self-incrimination and being tried twice for the same offense

Discussion point: Why is it that these rights were chosen? Which right do you think is the most important? Why?



4. According to Thomas Jefferson, what should no just government refuse?

A Bill of Rights

Discussion point: Why do you think a Bill of Rights was so important to Thomas Jefferson and the other architects of our system?

5. What does due process mean?

Procedural fairness before a person's life, liberty, or property can be taken from them.

6. What is equal protection?

The law applies equally to all people, regardless of who they are, who they know, how much money they have, the color of their skin, their race, their gender, etc.

7. Name the three court systems that exist in Wyoming.

- Federal Court system
- State Court system
- Tribal Court system

8. What is the county seat of the county where the first JC Penney store was located, the LA Lakers' owner Jerry Buss grew up, and Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner was born?

Kemmerer (Lincoln County)

9. Who is Campbell County named after and what makes him important?

John Allen Campbell; he was the first governor of the Wyoming Territory



10. What are the five requirements to be a Wyoming Supreme Court Justice?

- You must be:
 - A lawyer with at least 9 years' experience
 - At least 30 years old
 - A United States Citizen
 - A Wyoming Citizen for at least three years
 - Under 70 years old

11. How many state court judges are there in Wyoming?

58

12. What animal does Paula Turner keep in her apartment? And how long has she kept it there?

A snake, 2 years

13. Why did Todd Wolfe rob the convenience store?

He had no job by which to support his family



14. Is Paula Turner or Todd Wolfe appearing in criminal court? And how do you know?

Todd Wolfe; he was accused of a crime and the question to be decided is what his sentence should be. When someone has a sentence to spend time in jail or they receive probation, it's a criminal matter. Paula Turner is being accused by her landlord, not the State, of violating her lease, not a crime. That means it's a civil matter.

Discussion points: Why do we have civil and criminal systems? (when people or companies sue each other it's a civil matter and they usually are seeking money damages; when someone violates a criminal law or commits a crime, it's a criminal matter and in essence, it's the State that sues them and the State is seeking to put them in jail.) We have the two systems to resolve two very different categories of conflict that can arise.

Who should have more rights – people who are appearing in civil court with a disagreement or someone accused by the State in a criminal court? And why?

15. Who applies the rule of law in our justice system?

Judges

16. What kind of animal would make the best judge according to Judge Roberts?

A horse

17. What option does Judge Scavdahl use the most when he has to make a ruling on an issue when the law isn't clear?

He performs research and then makes a "best guess".

Discussion point: What does this make you think about the role of our judges and the application of the Rule of Law?

18. What would Justice Fox be if she wasn't a judge?

She would be a judicial teacher, travelling to other countries to help them develop judicial systems that would apply the rule of law to protect all of their citizens.



19. According to Judge Lavery what are two challenges in being a judge?

- The heavy caseload sometimes makes people wait to have their conflicts resolved
- Witnessing the pain and conflicts coming from the people who appear before the court

20. What case determined that the state regulates water rights in Wyoming? And who owns the water in Wyoming?

Wyoming Hereford Ranch v. Hammond, in 1924; The State owns the water in Wyoming.

21. What year did Wyoming adopt women's voting rights (women's suffrage)? Was that before or after Wyoming became a state?

1869 was the year that women's voting rights were recognized in Wyoming. That was before Wyoming became a state, which was in 1890.

22. How many articles of the Wyoming Constitution guarantee equal rights?

- 5:
 - Art. 1 § 2 (all humans are equal in their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness)
 - Art. 1 § 3 (equal political rights)
 - Art. 1 § 18 (religious liberty)
 - Art. 1 § 27 (free and equal elections)
 - Art. 6 § 1 (equal rights to men and women)

Discussion point: What does it mean to have equal rights? Does it mean equal outcomes? Why or why not?

23. Where did the first woman to vote in a general election in the United States cast her vote?

Louisa Swain, age 70 at the time, was the first woman to cast a vote in a general election in this country and she voted in Laramie, Wyoming on September 6, 1870.



24. What United States Supreme Court case concluded that the Shoshone Tribe owns the rights to its share of minerals and timber on the Wind River Reservation?

United States v. Shoshone Tribe of Indians, 304 U.S. 111 (1938)

25. How did the Johnson County War of 1892 start?

A group of powerful cattlemen in Johnson County did not think the legal system protected them against cattle rustling so they killed some county officials and the owners of some small ranches.

26. Why didn't the cattlemen get convicted of murder?

A jury could not be assembled.

Discussion point: Why would a jury not be assembled? There may be many reasons but in this case there were not enough uninterested citizens to form an unbiased jury.

27. Name two ways the Wyoming Constitution protected coal miners.

- It allowed the legislature to establish safety regulations for miners
- It allowed miners and their families to sue the mines when they didn't comply with safety regulations
- It prohibited the legislature from capping or limiting the money damages the miners could receive when they sued the mines for not complying with safety regulations
- It established an 8 hour work day for miners

28. Can public schools legally drug test their students?

Yes, at least when those students are involved in extra-curricular activities.

Discussion point: What do you think about this? Do you think drug testing should be allowed in all circumstances? Why? And if not, when should it be allowed?

