

Baker v. Carr + Shaw v. Reno Lesson

Unit	5 Political Participation (CED p. 111)
Content	5.9 Congressional Campaigns
Skills	Defining terms. Concept application. Analysis.
Materials	Baker v Carr v Shaw v Reno Landmark Supreme Court Case Rubric Baker v. Carr at Oyez Baker v. Carr from the Bill of Rights Institute. Is Gerrymandering Legal? Shaw v. Reno Shaw v. Reno on Oyez Baker v. Carr Completed Rubric Shaw v. Reno Completed Rubric
Big ?s	Are our elections free and fair?
Procedure	- Make a copy of Baker v Carr v Shaw v Reno to share with each student. - Students work solo and follow the directions on Baker v Carr v Shaw v Reno to answer the Baker v. Carr pages and the Shaw v. Reno pages. Students will write, watch, write, watch, write. - Teams of four may work on the final page of the Baker v Carr v Shaw v Reno Share and discuss. - Have students complete a Landmark Supreme Court Case Rubric for both <i>Baker v. Carr</i> and <i>Shaw v. Reno</i>. Then use Baker v. Carr Completed Rubric and Shaw v. Reno Completed Rubric to check work. Exit Ticket: Are our elections free and fair?

Baker v. Carr + Shaw v. Reno Viewing + Doing Guide

Baker v. Carr and Shaw v. Reno are Supreme Court cases about power!
Political power
And equality



■ Big Question: *Should political power be equal?*



Baker v. Carr Questions



V.



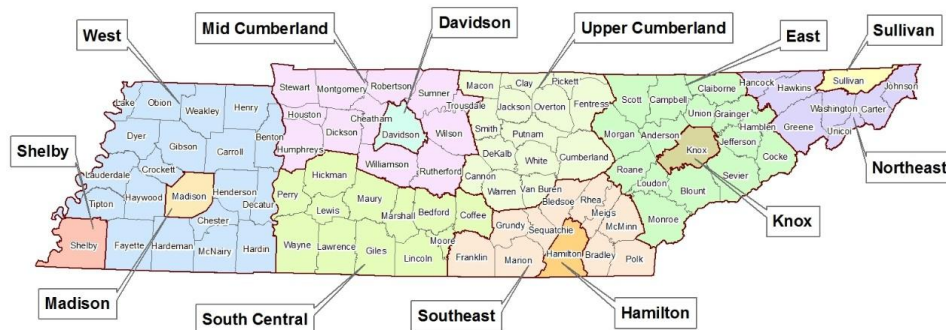
Before you watch any stupid videos please buckle up and define [democracy](#):

*Democracy rests upon the idea of all people being equal in political power.
One of the main ways we express our political power is through voting.*

What does the [14th Amendment](#) say about equality?

What does the [Equal Protection Clause](#) say and how does it relate to this case?

Tennessee Counties, Regions and Metros



Let's take a second to learn about the details and listen to the oral argument of [Baker v. Carr at Oyez](#)

Now the fun begins. Let's watch this six minute overview of [Baker v. Carr](#) from the Bill of Rights Institute. Answer the following questions as you watch:

1. Describe population movement in the early 20th century in the US of A?
2. Describe the political struggle between cities and rural areas at this time?
3. Who has more power in the early 20th century, city or rural areas?
4. What does One person one vote mean?
5. What was the central issue in Baker v. Carr?
6. What is the [census](#)?
7. How is the census used to [draw district lines](#)?
8. [Who redraws district lines](#)?
9. In the year 1950 when had the last district lines been redrawn?
10. Who is Mr. Baker, why is he mad, and why does he sue?
11. What do you think about that suit?
12. How would you rule in this dispute?
13. What does Baker v. Carr have to do with the [14th Amendment](#)?
14. What is the connection between Baker v. Carr and the [Equal Protection Clause](#)?
15. Before Baker v. Carr how were the districts drawn in Tennessee?
16. What does 1 person = 1 vote mean?
17. Had you been on the Warren Court, how would you have ruled in Baker v. Carr?
18. In terms of voting, are there any other ways American people are not equal today?
19. Let's say you are in a state legislature and you are drawing district lines. What are the rules for districting today based on Baker v. Carr?
20. A majority of SCOTUS ruled on the side of Baker. What was their main argument?
21. A minority of justices argued against Baker. What was their argument?
22. Do you think courts should be able to address political questions?
23. Should courts rule on legislative issues?
24. Which side do you agree with?

[Earl “Mack Daddy” Warren](#) was chief justice of the SCOTUS from 1953-1969

Why do you think Earl Warren said Baker v. Carr was the most important decision of his career?

During Warren's reign his court decided the following. Do you think Baker was most important?

- [Brown v. Board of Education](#),
- [Loving v. Virginia](#)
- [Baker v. Carr](#),
- [Mapp v. Ohio](#),
- [Miranda v. Arizona](#),
- [Gideon v. Wainwright](#),
- [New York Times Co. v. Sullivan](#),
- [Tinker v. Des Moines School District](#)
- [Engel v. Vitale](#),
- [Griswold v. Connecticut](#)

Was he right?

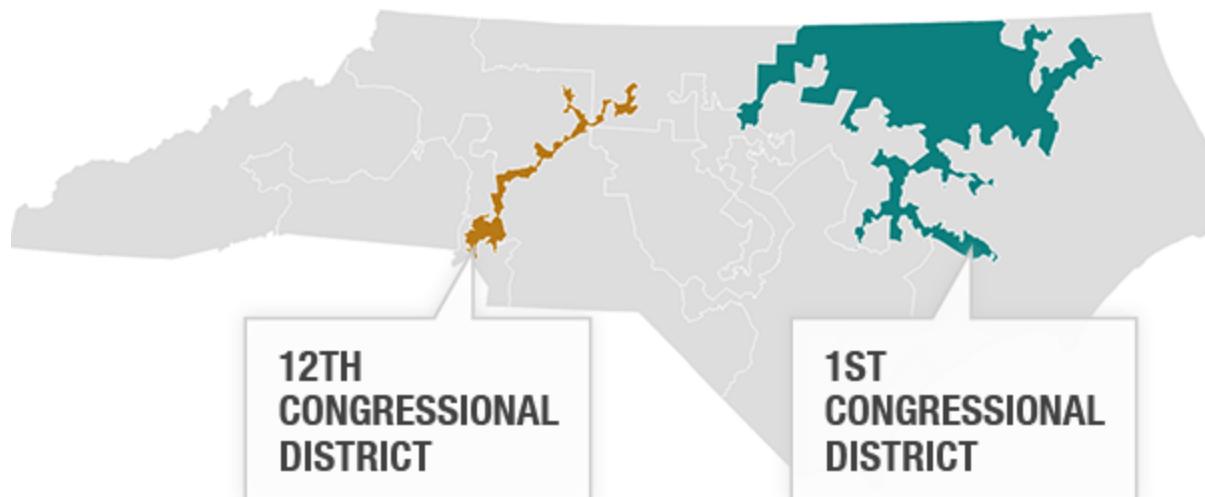
Rank the 10 cases above in order of importance.

Shaw v. Reno Questions

Watch this stupid 6 minute video about [Shaw v. Reno on You Tube](#)

Learn about and hear the oral arguments for [Shaw v. Reno on Oyez](#)

North Carolina! The Best State EVER!!!! [Cackalacky!](#)



How many U.S. House representatives were there in the great state of NC in 1989?

How many were African American?

What percent of the state was African American?

Uh Oh!

NC gained a district in 1990. So they got to add a new Congressional district but what would it look like? Where would it be? Would it be a [tesseract](#)?

So NC built a district But the federal government (remember federalism???) didn't like it.

Attorney General Reno rejected the district

Said NC legislature had to redraw districts to comply with the [Voting Rights Act](#)!

1. Wait, what does the [Voting Rights Act](#) say?
2. So the NC state legislature made a new district!
3. What interstate did the new district run through?
4. What did the district look like?
5. (They say that if you drove through the 12th district - where I live!!! - with your car doors open you would kill all the members of the district! Don't do that!)
6. What is gerrymandering?
7. What is racial gerrymandering?
8. How is racial gerrymandering different from partisan gerrymandering?
9. Do you think the NC redistricting plan violated the 14th amendment?
10. What does the 14th amendment say about equality?

11. Who won the case?
12. Why did the majority of SCOTUS side with Shaw?
13. Why did the minority of SCOTUS side with Reno?
14. Had you been on SCOTUS how would you have voted on this case?
15. Does Shaw v. Reno outlaw racial gerrymandering?
16. Based on the ruling in Shaw v. Reno, list the rules regarding racial gerrymandering:
17. Is partisan gerrymandering legal?
18. Arnold Swartzeneger says that in our system the politicians chose the voters instead of the votes choosing the politician. What does that mean?
19. Is Swartzeneger correct?
20. What legal argument could you make against partisan gerrymandering?

Finally

1. How were the two cases similar?
(You could make a venn diagram for #1 and #2 if you're into that kind of thing)

2. How were the two cases different?
(You could make a venn diagram for #1 and #2 if you're into that kind of thing)
3. Explain which case was more significant.
4. Do you remember how I made a stupid Baker v. Carr image mashup with a picture of the Swedish Chef and an El Camino car? I do. Make a stupid mashup image of Shaw v. Reno.

V.

5. Complete a [Landmark Supreme Court Cases Rubric](#) for both cases.