

Where Do Laws Come From?

LESSON PLAN

Objective:

To enable the students understand the source of our laws.

Aims:

- To explain the importance of the Constitution of Ireland
- To explain how laws are enacted in Ireland (statute law)
- To explain law other than statute law

Resources:

- *Let's look at the law* video - Lesson 5 (5 minutes)
- Poster explaining the creation of laws - *Making Statute Law*
- Explaining the separation of powers - *Teacher's Note: Separation of Powers* and Poster
- Brief explanation of origin of laws - *Teacher's Notes: Origin of Laws*
- Useful additional resources; copy of the Constitution of Ireland (Bunreacht na hÉireann)¹ and Houses of the Oireachtas website²

¹ Bunreacht na hÉireann can be downloaded from <http://www.constitution.ie/> or purchased from the Government Publications Sale Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

² <http://www.oireachtas.ie/>

Key questions:

- Why is the Constitution so important?
- How does Statute law come about?
- What other types of law are there?

Duration: 35 minutes

Introduction: (15 minutes)

The teacher explains what the Constitution is and how laws come about - *Teacher's Notes: Origin of Laws.*

Development: (10 minutes)

- ◆ Class watch the *Let's look at the law* video - Lesson 5. This refers to the Constitution and explains Statute law and how it is created, and other types of law (common law, EU law and international law).

Closure: (10 minutes)

- ◆ Divide class into groups.
- ◆ Teacher asks the class - for example, "What is the Constitution and why is it so important?" "How does statute law come about?" "What other types of law are there?"
- ◆ Answers are noted on the blackboard/graffiti wall. The poster - *Making Statute Law* can be used here.
- ◆ Class discusses answers.