

**Topic:**  
Rules

**Time:**  
1-2 days

**Grade:**  
3-6

**Core:**  
3: 6030-0401  
4: 6040-0402  
5: 6050-0501  
6: 6060-0404

**Objectives:**

1. Students will understand what a rule is.
2. Students will see that rules can be “good” (fair) or “bad” (unfair).

**Procedure:**

1. Ask students to define “rule.”
2. Then, give examples of home rules, school rules and state rules.
3. Are rules different than laws?
4. Have students give an example of a rule, write it on the board, then use the following questions to discuss the rule.
  - a. What rule did the person make?
  - b. Why did the person think a rule was needed?
  - c. Aside from making a rule, what might be some other ways to deal with the problem?
  - d. What are some things that might happen because of this rule?
  - e. What is wrong with this rule, if anything?
  - f. Would you keep this rule as it is, change it, or do away with it? Why?
5. As a class, or in groups of 5-6, have students discuss and evaluate the situations in Handout 1. Use the same questions (you may want to write some of them on the board).
6. This brief lesson could help introduce the United States Constitution to students as our country’s rule book.

**Additional Resources:**

**Author:** Revised from  
Update Magazine



## HANDOUT 1

### THINKING ABOUT RULES AND LAWS

Directions:

Each of the following examples has a description of a problem and a rule that might help deal with the problem. As you read the rules, see if you can find something wrong with each one. Thinking about what is wrong with these rules should help you understand what it takes to make a good rule.

1. Mrs. Abernathy was angry because some students were coming to school late. She made the following rule: "Anyone who is late for school must stay after school two hours every day for a month."
2. Some first-grade students were always getting out of their seats and disturbing those who were working. Mr. Terranova read this rule to his first-grade class: "Ambulatory privileges are henceforth revoked pending further notification."
3. There was not enough room on the playground for everyone to use it at the same time. The principal made this rule: "Boys may use the playing field on Mondays only. Girls may use it the rest of the week."
4. There were many problems in the country. The President made a new law which said: "All people must behave themselves."
5. Some students have been speaking too loudly at lunch time. The following rule was made: "No students may speak during lunch hour."
6. To help students become physically fit, the following rule was made: "During recess, each student is to jump over the school building three times."

