

Trial Court 'Go Fish'

Time Needed: One Class Period

Materials Needed:

Printed materials, scissors, colored pencils or crayons

Copy Instructions:

Cheat Sheets (*class set*)

Game Rules (*1/2 sheets class set*)

Game board (*one per group*)

Cards (*one set per group, double sided with iCivics logo on back to prevent see-through*)

Learning Objectives.

Students will be able to:

- Identify the roles of trial participants.
- Distinguish between in-court duties and out-of-court duties.
- Distinguish between civil and criminal trials

STEP BY STEP

- ❑ **ANTICIPATE** by drawing a quick sketch of a courtroom on the board. Only draw the perimeter of the room and the judge's bench. Call on individual students to come up and help complete the drawing by adding what they already know about a courtroom.
- ❑ **EXPLAIN** that they will be playing a game that will teach them about the different roles of people in a courtroom.
- ❑ **GROUP** students into groups of 4 to 5.
- ❑ **DISTRIBUTE** one cheat sheet and one game rules half-sheet to each student, and one game board and one set of cards to each group.
- ❑ **HAND OUT** enough colored pencils to each group so each player can have a different color.
- ❑ **TELL** students they will be playing a version of the card game "Go Fish" that will teach them about the different people involved in a court case and the role each person has before and during a trial.
- ❑ **SHOW** students one of the "job title" cards and one of the "job description" cards, and point out that they match job titles and descriptions on the cheat sheet.
- ❑ **EXPLAIN** that the object of the game is to get the most pairs of cards by matching job titles and job descriptions. Explain that there are two job title cards and two job description cards for each job. This is because one job description tells what that person does before trial or when they are not in court, and the other one tells what the person does during a trial or when they are in court.
- ❑ **READ** the game rules together with students and answer any questions.
- ❑ **GUIDE** students through the game setup:
 - 1) Choose a colored pencil so every player in the group has a different color
 - 2) Write your name on the players list on the game board and color in the circle next to your name.
 - 3) Deal a hand of 5 cards face down to each player. The player farthest from the classroom door is the dealer (or use any criterion that works in your classroom).
 - 4) Place the rest of the cards face down in a pile
 - 5) Begin the game. The player closest to the classroom door goes first.

Trial Court 'Go Fish'

Name: _____

Game Rules.

- 1) Players will take turns.
- 2) When it is your turn, ask another player for a card that will make a match with a card you already have.
- 3) Rules about asking:
 - If you already have a job title card, you must ask for the *job description*.

Example: "Do you have 'When my judge is not in the courtroom, I help keep things running smoothly in the judge's chambers?'"

 - If you already have a job description card, you must ask for the *job title*.

Example: "Do you have a bailiff?"
- 4) It is OK to use your cheat sheet to help you ask correctly.
- 5) If you do not follow Rule #3 when asking for a card, you forfeit your turn.
- 6) If the player has the card you asked for, that player must give the card to you. In that case, you may ask any player for another card.
- 7) If the player does not have the card you asked for, they will tell you to "Go Fish." Draw a card from the pile.
- 8) When you get a matching pair of cards, set your pair aside and color in a circle next to the correct person on the game board.
- 9) At the end of the period, the player with the most colored circles wins!

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Cheat Sheet

Bailiff

- When my judge is not in the courtroom, I help keep things running smoothly in the judge's chambers.
- When my judge is in the courtroom, I'm in the courtroom too. I get things the judge needs and makes sure there is order in the court.

Civil Attorney for the Defendant

- Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to show my client did not break the law or violate anyone's rights. Often, I work with the other side's lawyer to try to settle the case without a trial.
- During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that my client did not violate the other side's rights and does not owe the other side anything.

Civil Attorney for the Plaintiff

- Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to show that the defendant violated my client's rights. Often, I work with the other side's lawyer to try to settle the case without a trial.
- During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that the defendant violated my client's rights and owes something to my client.

Civil Defendant

- Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help her prove that I did not break the law or violate the other person's rights.
- During a trial, I sit next to my lawyer and hope that the judge or jury will decide I did not break the law or violate the other person's rights. I will probably get up and tell my side of the story.

Court Clerk

- When I'm not in the courtroom, I finish up the official notes I took in the courtroom. I also mark all the evidence the lawyers want to use during the trial and give each piece of evidence a number.
- When I'm in the courtroom, I use a computer to take official notes about what happens.

Court Reporter

- When I'm not in the courtroom, I am busy editing transcripts I typed during other court proceedings like hearings or trials.
- When I'm in the courtroom, I transcribe what everyone says word for word.

Criminal Defendant

- Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help him either prove I did not commit a crime or show why my punishment should not be so severe.
- During a trial, I sit with my lawyer and hope the judge or jury will decide I did not commit a crime. I probably won't tell my side of the story, because the Constitution says I don't have to testify against myself.

Cheat Sheet

Criminal Defense Attorney

- Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to prove my client is innocent of any crime. If I can't do that, I work to get my client the most fair punishment.
- During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that my client did not commit a crime.

Judge

- Before a trial, I read all the documents that each side files with the court so I know what's going on. I also go in the courtroom to make decisions about different issues that come up as the lawyers prepare for trial.
- During a jury trial, I make sure the lawyers follow courtroom rules and I explain to the jury what the law says so they can make a decision.

Judicial Assistant

- Before a trial, I keep records of all the documents the lawyers send to my judge. I keep my judge organized by keeping track of how the case is proceeding as it moves toward trial.
- During a trial, I am around to make sure the lawyers and the judge have everything they need.

Juror

- Before a trial, I am just a regular citizen going about my business.
- During a trial, I listen carefully to all the evidence so I can help. Then I will go into a room with the rest of my group to decide what really happened.

Plaintiff

- Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help him prove that my rights were violated.
- During a trial, I sit with my lawyer and hope that the judge or jury will decide my rights were violated and order the other side to pay me back.

Prosecutor

- Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to prove the defendant committed a crime. I also negotiate with the other side to offer the defendant the most fair punishment.
- During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that the defendant committed a crime.

Victim

- Before a trial, I will give the prosecutor as much information as I can to help her convict the person who committed a crime against me.
- During a trial, I might sit in the courtroom and watch the trial if it is not too upsetting for me. I am not involved in the trial because the state presses charges against that person for me.

Witness

- Before a trial, I meet with lawyers and tell them what I heard or saw, to help them prepare their cases.
- During a trial, I come to the courtroom to testify about what I heard or saw.

TRIAL COURT 'GO FISH'

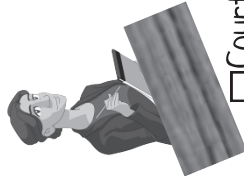
Court Clerk



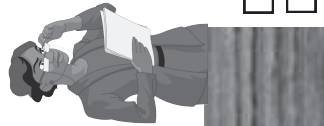
Judge



Witness



Court Reporter



Criminal Defense Attorney or Civil Attorney for the Defendant



Defendant (civil or criminal)



Prosecutor or Civil Attorney for Plaintiff (civil only)



Players



Jurors



Bailiff



Victim



(criminal case only)

Judicial Assistant



Criminal
Defendant



Plaintiff



Bailiff



Bailiff



Witness



Judge



Court Reporter



Juror



Prosecutor



Court Clerk



Victim



Criminal Defense Attorney



Judicial Assistant



Civil Attorney for the Defendant



Criminal Defendant



Civil Attorney for the Plaintiff



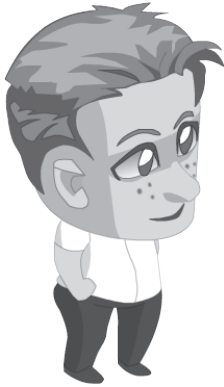
Victim



Court Reporter



Juror



Criminal Defense Attorney



Civil Attorney for the Defendant



Civil Defendant



Civil Attorney for the Plaintiff



Judicial Assistant



Court Clerk



Judge



Plaintiff



Witness



Civil Defendant



Prosecutor



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When my judge is not in the courtroom, I help keep things running smoothly in the judge's chambers.

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Before a trial, I keep records of all the documents the lawyers send to my judge. I keep my judge organized by keeping track of how the case is proceeding as it moves toward trial.

Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help her prove that I did not break the law or violate the other person's rights.

<p>Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to prove the defendant committed a crime. I also negotiate with the other side to offer the defendant the most fair punishment.</p>	<p>During a trial, I sit with my lawyer and hope the judge or jury will decide I did not commit a crime. I probably won't tell my side of the story, because the Constitution says I don't have to testify against myself.</p>	<p>When I'm not in the courtroom, I am busy editing transcripts I typed during other court proceedings like hearings or trials.</p>
<p>Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to show my client did not break the law or violate anyone's rights. Often I work with the other side's lawyer to try to settle the case without a trial.</p>	<p>Before a trial, I read all the documents that each side files with the court so I know what's going on. I also go in the courtroom to make decisions about different issues that come up as the lawyers prepare for trial.</p>	<p>When my judge is in the courtroom, I'm in the courtroom too. I get things the judge needs and makes sure there is order in the court.</p>
<p>During a trial, I sit with my lawyer and hope that the judge or jury will decide my rights were violated and order the other side to pay me back.</p>	<p>During a trial, I sit next to my lawyer and hope that the judge or jury will decide I did not break the law or violate the other person's rights. I will probably get up and tell my side of the story.</p>	<p>Before a trial, I study the law, talk to witnesses, and gather evidence to build a case to prove my client is innocent of any crime. If I can't do that, I work to get my client the most fair punishment.</p>

<p>When I'm in the courtroom, I transcribe what everyone says word for word.</p>	<p>Before a trial, I meet with lawyers and tell them what I heard or saw, to help them prepare their cases.</p>	<p>Before a trial, I will give the prosecutor as much information as I can to help her convict the person who committed a crime against me.</p>
<p>During a trial, I come to the courtroom to testify about what I heard or saw.</p>	<p>During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that my client did not violate the other side's rights and does not owe the other side anything.</p>	<p>During a trial, I am around to make sure the lawyers and the judge have everything they need.</p>
<p>During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that my client did not commit a crime.</p>	<p>When I'm not in the courtroom, I finish up the official notes I took in the courtroom. I also mark all the evidence the lawyers want to use during the trial and give each piece of evidence a number.</p>	<p>Before a trial, I am just a regular citizen going about my business.</p>

<p>Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help him either prove did not commit a crime or show why my punishment should not be so severe.</p>	<p>During a jury trial, I make sure the lawyers follow courtroom rules and I explain to the jury what the law says so they can make a decision.</p>	<p>During a trial, I present evidence to convince the jury that the defendant committed a crime.</p>
<p>Before a trial, I give my lawyer as much information as I can to help him prove that my rights were violated.</p>	<p>During a trial, I might sit in the courtroom and watch the trial if it is not too upsetting for me. I am not involved in the trial because the state presses charges against that person for me.</p>	<p>During a trial, I listen carefully to all the evidence so I can help. Then I will go into a room with the rest of my group to decide what really happened.</p>



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