

Aim: What constitutes cruel and unusual punishment?

- **8th Amendment**: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Gregg v. Georgia 1976

Constitutional Issue

- Is the imposition of the death sentence prohibited under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments as "cruel and unusual" punishment?

Supreme Court Decision (7-2)

- No. In a 7-to-2 decision, the Court held that a punishment of death did not violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments under all circumstances.

Questions

- Today, what is the youngest age at which a person can be executed?
- Other than age, what restrictions are in place on who can receive the death penalty?
- How many states have the death penalty? Find a map that shows which states have it – Do you notice any trends?
- How many people have been executed in 2019? How many were executed last year (2018)? Find a chart or graph showing how many executed each year since 1976?
- [When was the last time someone was executed in NY by the state?](#) By the Federal government?