



## Loving v. Virginia (1967): Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>In a unanimous decision, the Court found anti-miscegenation laws as violations of both the Equal Protection Clause and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court also struck down all laws banning interracial marriage in the sixteen states still using them. The case went on to be cited in <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (2015), which legalized same-sex marriage.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civics</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
<a href="https://academy4sc.org/topic/loving-v-virginia-1967/">https://academy4sc.org/topic/loving-v-virginia-1967/</a>	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define anti-miscegenation laws.</li> <li>• Describe the facts of the <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> case.</li> <li>• Explain the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down laws against interracial marriage.</li> </ul>	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Interracial, Robert F Kennedy, ACLU, Civil Rights Era, Jim Crow Laws	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access	
Before you watch	
<p><b>Turn &amp; Talk:</b> Talk with a neighbor about the progress made during the Civil Rights Era. List some changes made during this period.</p>	

### While you watch

Complete the Worksheet.

### After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why do you think segregationists and white supremacists supported laws banning interracial marriage?
2. Are you surprised at how relatively recent the *Loving* case is? Why do you think interracial marriage is commonplace today but was illegal in many states barely fifty years ago?
3. What do you think about the decision in *Pace v. Alabama*, which upheld anti-miscegenation laws because they impacted both races equally? Was that true? Does the intent behind laws matter?

### Activity Ideas

- Write about the interracial, interfaith, or interethnic relationships within your own friends and family. Talk about the importance of combining and learning from different cultures and backgrounds. You may also talk about the unique challenges of these relationships. Write a short essay on the topic, around two to four paragraphs.
- Watch this [trailer](#) for the movie based on the Lovings, titled *Loving*. Read an [article](#) about what Loving's grandson Mark Loving II has to say about the film and his famous grandparents. Hold small group discussions on the film and its representation of the Loving family.

### Sources/places to learn more

1. "Loving V. Virginia," *History* (June 10, 2019)  
<https://www.history.com/topics/civil-rights-movement/loving-v-virginia>.
2. "Loving v. Virginia." *Oyez*, [www.oyez.org/cases/1966/395](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1966/395).
3. Stolberg, Sheryl Gay. "50 Years After Loving v. Virginia" *The New York Times* (June 11, 2017).  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/11/us/50-years-after-loving-v-virginia.html>.
4. Newbeck, P., & Wolfe, B. *Loving v. Virginia* (1967). (2015, October 26). In *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Retrieved from [http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/Loving\\_v\\_Virginia\\_1967](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/Loving_v_Virginia_1967).