



The Judicial Branch and Legal System: SS.7.CG.3.11
Landmark Supreme Court Cases (Marbury v. Madison)
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.11 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will use primary sources to assess the significance of each U.S. Supreme Court case.

There have been several landmark U.S. Supreme Court judicial opinions that have significantly impacted American society and government.

Landmark Supreme Court Cases		Primary Sources
Case	Significant Details	Passages from the Court Opinion Linked to the Significance of the Case
Marbury v. Madison (1803)	President John Adams nominated (named) William Marbury as one of forty-two justices of the peace on March 2, 1801. The Senate confirmed the nominations the following day, March 3, which was Adams's last full day in office. However, acting Secretary of State John Marshall failed to deliver four of the commissions, including Marbury's. When Thomas Jefferson took office on March 4, he ordered that the four remaining commissions be withheld. Marbury sued the new secretary of state, James Madison, in order to obtain his commission. The Supreme Court issued its opinion on February 24, 1803.	"It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is. Those who apply the rule to particular cases, must of necessity expound and interpret that rule. If two law conflict with each other, the courts must decide on the operation of each."