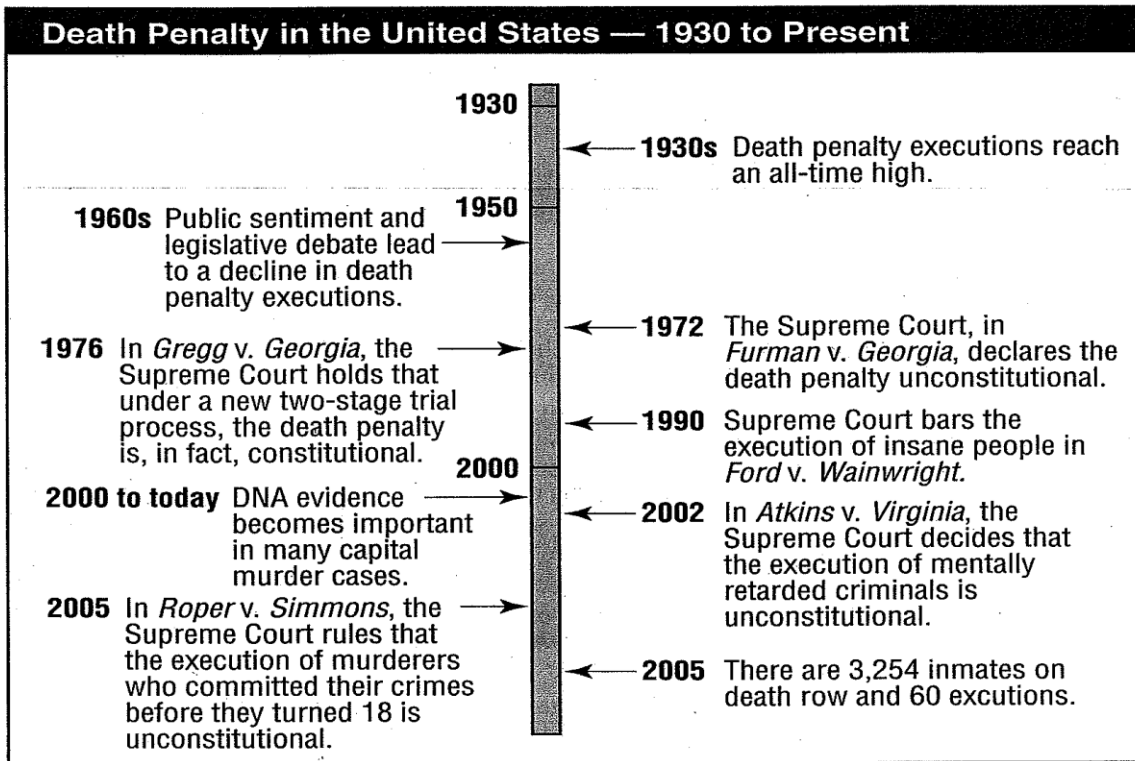


Name _____

The Death Penalty, the U.S. Constitution, and DNA

The death penalty has always been hotly debated in this country, and over the last several years, DNA testing has added a new element to this controversy.

Scientists can now analyze a suspect’s genetic code, or DNA. The results may link someone to a crime or exclude him or her as a suspect. However, the testing can cost thousands of dollars. Since DNA testing began to change criminal investigations in the late 1980s, test results have freed more than 130 convicts, including several who were awaiting execution on death row. The timeline below shows a chronology of the death penalty in the United States.



Applying the Law

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Is the death penalty allowed in your state? _____
2. List the various Supreme Court rulings relating to the death penalty.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH
(AT LEAST 5 SENTENCES)
STATING WHETHER OR
NOT YOU SUPPORT
THE DEATH PENALTY.
EXPLAIN YOUR
ANSWER.