

The
Economist

EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

9:29 MIN



GUILTY: DEREK CHAUVIN

PART 1: IN THE KNOW

LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

Check out this week's
introduction video

bit.ly/NewsCycleVidApr30

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on
this week's News Cycle

bit.ly/NewsCycleApr30

VERDICT

= a decision about whether someone is innocent or guilty

JURORS / JURY

= the people in court who decide the verdict

SECOND-DEGREE MURDER

= when someone kills someone else (on purpose or not) through dangerous behaviour

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

Why was the verdict in Derek Chauvin's trial so important?



In May 2020 Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, killed George Floyd, a black man from Minnesota, whilst arresting him. This sparked thousands of protests against racism and the excessive use of police force. Mr Chauvin was charged with murder. His trial, which was watched around the world, began on March 29th 2021.

During the trial, the 12 jurors heard from high-ranking Minneapolis police officials, Mr Floyd's family, witnesses and medical experts. Evidence was presented from both the defence, whose job it was to prove to the jury that Mr Chauvin wasn't guilty of the crimes he was accused of, and the prosecution, who tried to prove that he was.

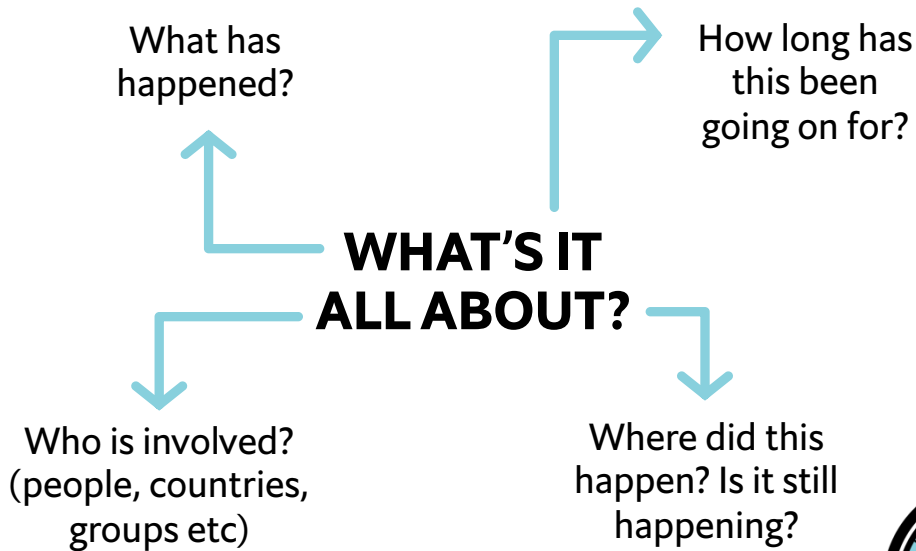
The main argument of Jerry Blackwell, for the prosecution, was that Mr Chauvin caused the injuries that led to Mr Floyd's death by kneeling on his neck – and that this was unnecessary force. "I saw no reason why the officers felt they were in danger," he said, "and that's what they would have to have felt to be able to use that kind of force."

The defence argued that Mr Chauvin felt that he was in danger and acted "following Minneapolis Police Department policy and current standards of law enforcement". Mr Chauvin chose not to give any evidence.

The trial lasted three weeks but it took less than a day for the jury to decide the verdict: Mr Chauvin was found guilty on three charges, including second-degree murder.

On June 16th Judge Peter Cahill will tell Mr Chauvin how long he will spend in prison.

Want to know more? Look here: [bbc.co.uk/newsround/56815667](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56815667)



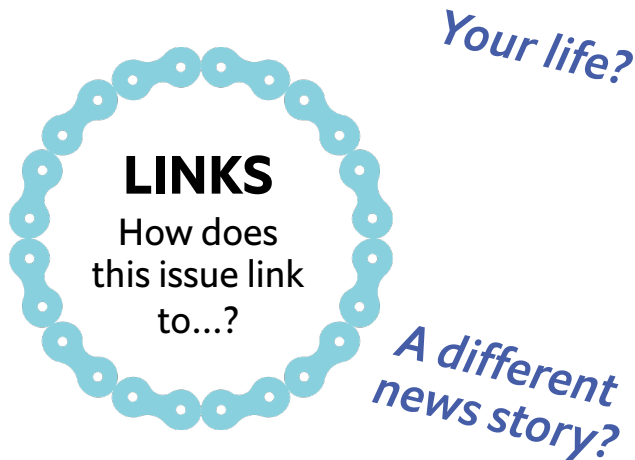
NEWS SCALE

How big is this issue for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about an anti-racism protester? Where would they put their X? What about the Minneapolis Police Department?



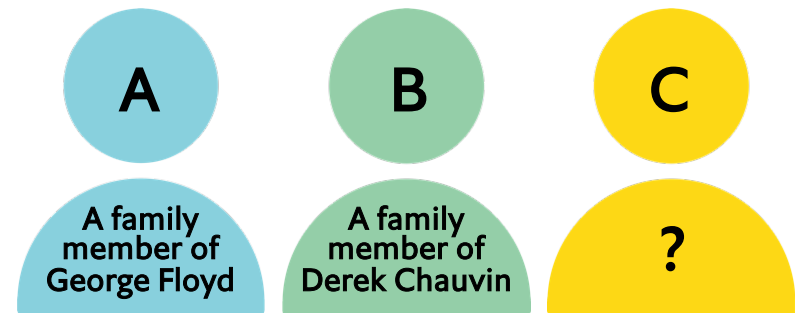
NEWS CONCEPT:
justice?

NEWS CONCEPT:
power?



PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?