

BILL OF RIGHTS: YOU MEAN I'VE GOT RIGHTS?

GOAL	Students will be introduced to the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and other important constitutional amendments. This lesson prepares students to play the Our Courts game "Do I Have a Right?"
TIME	One class period
NUTSHELL	First, you'll let students choose from a checklist of rights to include in a hypothetical "Pamphlet of Protections." Then you'll read through the actual text of the Bill of Rights and a few other amendments, comparing the hypothetical "protections" with the rights we actually have. You'll offer guided practice with a mix and match circulation activity, then let students summarize their real-life rights with a cloze activity about the Bill of Rights and the other amendments.
CONCEPTS	Purpose, origin, and content of the Bill of Rights and other important Amendments to the Constitution
OBJECTIVES	The student will... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select important rights citizens should have by choosing from a checklist of pre-made questions.• Use labels to compare the rights they chose with the rights in the actual constitutional amendments.• Match original-language constitutional rights with plain-English rights.• Identify constitutional rights by completing a cloze activity

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PAGEPLAN

Bill of Rights: You Mean I've Got Rights?

Time: One class period



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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTE one packet to each student</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ANTICIPATE by reading the first paragraph of "Rights: Starting from Scratch" with students, then having them complete the checklist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POLL students to find out which rights got the most votes for the "Pamphlet of Protections."</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITION into the Bill of Rights by reading the last paragraph on the "Rights: Starting from Scratch" page with students.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EXPLAIN that you will be reading the actual text of the Bill of Rights together. You will be looking to see whether any of the rights students chose for the Pamphlet of Protections are in the Bill of Rights.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREVIEW the Bill of Rights pages together. Point out that these are "amendments" (additions/changes) to the Constitution. Point out the side where students will write which "pamphlet" Protections correspond with each amendment (some amendments will have no corresponding Protection and some will have more than one).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> READ the Bill of Rights page with students as a class, pausing to explain as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As you read, ask students if they can give a synonym for each bold word. Have students write a synonym above, below, or next to each bold word. (See Active Participation Guide for list of synonyms)• As you read, ask students to identify which (if any) "Protections" correspond with the amendments. Have them write the number of the Protection(s) on the line provided next to each amendment. <p><input type="checkbox"/> ASK students to look at the anticipation activity and circle the Protections that were NOT in the Bill of Rights.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TIME students for two minutes while they discuss with a partner why those rights might not have been included and whether they think they should have been included. Warn students you will spot-check answers.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPOT CHECK answers by randomly calling on students.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TELL students they will be doing an activity to learn the rights in the amendments.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GUIDE students through the Mix & Match activity (see Active Participation Guide). This activity works best if you either participate or circulate as though you were participating.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GIVE students time to complete the cloze worksheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CLOSE by having students tell a partner three rights the Bill of Rights gives them</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Easy Prep</u></p> <p><u>Copy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One packet for each student. Packet includes 4 pages (OK to copy 2-sided):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "Rights: Starting from Scratch" anticipation activity○ Bill of Rights reading○ "You Mean I've Got Rights?" cloze worksheet• Bill of Rights circulation activity cards <p><u>Cut:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mix & Match activity cards in advance <p><u>Print:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PagePlan and Active Participation Guide for yourself |
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Bill of Rights: Active Participation Guide

You Mean I've Got Rights?

SYNONYM LIST

abridging (reducing)
petition (ask)
redress (fix)
grievances (complaints)

state (country)
infringed (violated)

quartered (housed)

effects (things)

offense (crime)
jeopardy (danger)
compelled (forced)
just (fair)

prosecutions (trials)
impartial (neutral)
compulsory (required)
counsel (lawyer)

enumeration (list)
construed (interpreted)

naturalized (given citizenship)

privileges (rights)

immunities (things you don't have to do)

delegated (given)

MIX & MATCH ACTIVITY

If you've ever been reluctant to do an activity where students circulate around the room... wait! You really can maintain order in your classroom if you follow the steps provided.

Here's how the activity works: You will give each student a card. Some cards have the actual Bill of Rights text; the matching cards have plain-English explanations of the rights. When you say "Mix!", students must walk around the room trading cards with as many people as they can until you call "Match!" When you say "Match," students must stop trading and find the person who has the card that matches the one they are now holding. You will then tell the class to arrange in a circle. Very quickly, go around the circle and have each pair read the cards they have to be sure they really match. Then call "Mix!" again and repeat the activity.

To help make sure your class does not descend into chaos, follow these steps:

- 1) **GIVE** each student a card before they get up. If you can, give yourself a card also.
- 2) **EXPLAIN** how the activity works. (see above description and steps 4 - 6 below)
- 3) **STATE** your expectations and show students in advance where you want the circle. (Suggested expectations: 1) Trade cards as fast as you can. 2) Stop trading instantly when you hear "match." 3) No trading after you hear "match.")
- 4) **TELL** students to stand up and move out from behind their desks.
- 5) **SAY** "Mix!" Even if you don't have a card, circulate with students. The whole time they are mixing, keep reminding them to trade. Immediately pinpoint students who are trying to hold on to their card. Keep them trading as fast as they can. Thirty seconds is probably a good time for mixing.
- 5) **SAY** "Match!" Tell students they must stop trading immediately and find their match.
- 6) **CIRCLE** the class and read the cards as quickly as possible. Keep up the tempo! You can go around in order or choose pairs randomly.
- 7) **REPEAT** the activity until you've gone through the process three times.

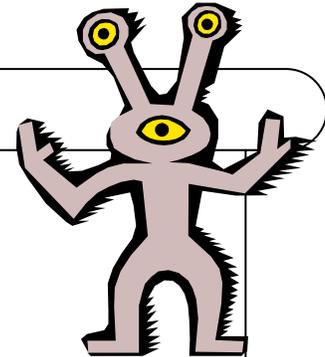
Rights: Starting from Scratch

Name: _____

Anticipation Activity



The year is 2056. The world as you know it has been completely destroyed by alien invaders. You and a group of survivors have just won a terrifying battle against the aliens, who have now left the planet. Now you're free, but everyone is still afraid because there is nothing on paper to guarantee people will have rights. The leaders of the group have decided to create the Pamphlet of Protections. The Pamphlet will define what rights people will have. The following are rights that some of the leaders think should be included in the Pamphlet of Protections. They want your input. Mark your top 10 choices below:



Pamphlet of Protections

- _____ 1. *The people shall have the right to own weapons.*
- _____ 2. *Everyone must be friends with everyone else.*
- _____ 3. *People are free to express their opinions on any subject.*
- _____ 4. *A person accused of a crime has the right to a fair trial.*
- _____ 5. *Criminals shall not be punished in a way that is mean or weird.*
- _____ 6. *The people shall have the right to clean streets and parks.*
- _____ 7. *Laws can't stop adult citizens from voting.*
- _____ 8. *The people shall have the right to a free education.*
- _____ 9. *All people shall be protected equally by the laws.*
- _____ 10. *The people shall never be enslaved.*
- _____ 11. *No person shall be searched without a good reason.*
- _____ 12. *The people shall be free to drive as soon as they can operate a car.*
- _____ 13. *No person shall be required to fight in a war.*
- _____ 14. *No person will be put on trial twice for the same crime.*
- _____ 15. *A person may follow any religion or no religion.*

REWIND... The year is 1791. The world as Americans knew it has recently been turned upside down by the end of the Revolutionary War—a war that gave them their freedom from England. Now American colonists will no longer have to submit to an unfair king who wanted to keep Americans from having rights of their own. America is independent, but there is nothing on paper to guarantee the new government will give people the rights and freedoms they want. A group of leaders decides to add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution to define what rights people will have. On the next two pages, compare the Bill of Rights to your Pamphlet of Protections. But be careful: Some rights will be in both documents and some won't!

The Bill of Rights

*Pamphlet of
Protections*

Protection #:

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or **abridging** the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to **petition** the government for a **redress** of **grievances**.

Protection #:

Amendment II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free **state**, the right of the people to **keep and bear arms**, shall not be **infringed**.

Protection #

Amendment III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be **quartered** in any house, without the consent of the owner



Protection #:

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and **effects**, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Protection #:

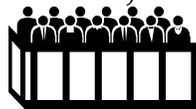
Amendment V

No person shall . . . be subject for the same **offense** to be twice put in **jeopardy** of life or limb; nor shall be **compelled** in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without **just** compensation.

Protection #:

Amendment VI

In all criminal **prosecutions**, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an **impartial** jury . . . and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have **compulsory** process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of **counsel** for his defense.



Protection #:

Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Protection #:

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.



Protection #:

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Protection #:

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Other Important Amendments

Protection #:

Amendment XIII

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.



Protection #:

Amendment XIV

All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Protection #:

Amendment XV

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.



Protection #:

Amendment XIX

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Protection #:

Amendment XXVI

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

You Mean I've Got Rights?

Name: _____

Yes! Identify the real-life rights the Bill of Rights gives you by filling in the missing words below:

effects	unusual	speedy	soldiers	place	persons
houses	eighteen	twice	soldiers	searches	gender
arms	color	property	slavery	race	persons
witness	offense	public	speech	cruel	laws
protection	petition	himself	public	seizures	papers
press	government	things	seized		

- 1) A person accused of a crime has the right to a _____ and _____ trial.
- 2) A warrant must describe the _____ to be _____ and the _____ or _____ to be _____.
- 3) People have the right to keep and bear _____.
- 4) There will be no _____ and _____ punishments.
- 5) _____ shall not exist in the United States.
- 6) A person accused of a crime does not have to be a _____ against _____.
- 7) Private _____ cannot be taken for _____ use without paying the owner a fair price.
- 8) People have the right to be free from unreasonable _____ and _____ of their _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- 9) There can't be any law restricting peoples' freedom of _____ or of the _____.
- 10) People have the right to _____ the _____ if they are unhappy.



- 11) People who are at least _____ years old have the right to vote regardless of their _____, _____, or _____.
- 12) A state cannot deny anyone equal _____ of the state's _____.
- 13) A person cannot be put on trial _____ for the same _____.
- 14) People don't have to let _____ live in their houses.

Rights: Starting from Scratch

Name: _____

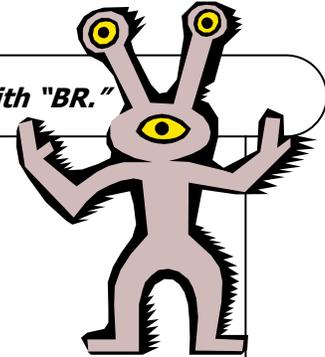
Anticipation Activity



The year is 2056. The world as you know it has been completely destroyed by alien invaders. You and a group of survivors have just won a terrifying battle against the aliens, who have now left the planet. Now you're free, but everyone is still afraid because there is nothing on paper to guarantee people will have rights. The leaders of the group have decided to create the Pamphlet of Protections. The Pamphlet will define what rights people will have. The following are rights that some of the leaders think should be included in the Pamphlet of Protections. They want your input. Mark your top 10 choices below:

Teachers: Rights found in the Bill of Rights are marked with "BR."

Pamphlet of Protections



- BR 1. The people shall have the right to own weapons.
- 2. Everyone must be friends with everyone else.
- BR 3. People are free to express their opinions on any subject.
- BR 4. A person accused of a crime has the right to a fair trial.
- BR 5. Criminals shall not be punished in a way that is mean or weird.
- 6. The people shall have the right to clean streets and parks.
- BR 7. Laws can't stop adult citizens from voting.
- 8. The people shall have the right to a free education.
- BR 9. All people shall be protected equally by the laws.
- BR 10. The people shall never be enslaved.
- BR 11. No person shall be searched without a good reason.
- 12. The people shall be free to drive as soon as they can operate a car.
- 13. No person shall be required to fight in a war.
- BR 14. No person will be put on trial twice for the same crime.
- BR 15. A person may follow any religion.

REWIND... The year is 1791. The world as Americans knew it has recently been turned upside down by the end of the Revolutionary War—a war that gave them their freedom from England. Now American colonists will no longer have to submit to an unfair king who wanted to keep Americans from having rights of their own. America is independent, but there is nothing on paper to guarantee the new government will give people the rights and freedoms they want. A group of leaders decides to add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution to define what rights people will have. On the next two pages, compare the Bill of Rights to your Pamphlet of Protections. But be careful: Some rights will be in both documents and some won't!

The Bill of Rights

Pamphlet of Protections

Protection #:

3, 15

Amendment I

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Protection #:

1

Amendment II

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Protection #

Amendment III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be **quartered** in any house, without the consent of the owner



Protection #:

11

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and **effects**, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Protection #:

14

Amendment V

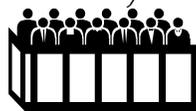
No person shall . . . be subject for the same **offense** to be twice put in **jeopardy** of life or limb; nor shall be **compelled** in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without **just** compensation.

Protection #:

4

Amendment VI

In all criminal **prosecutions**, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an **impartial** jury . . . and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have **compulsory** process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of **counsel** for his defense.



Protection #:

Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Protection #:
5

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.



Protection #:

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Protection #:

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Other Important Amendments

Protection #:
10

Amendment XIII

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.



Protection #:
9

Amendment XIV

All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Protection #:
7

Amendment XV

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.



Protection #:
7

Amendment XIX

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Protection #:
7

Amendment XXVI

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

You Mean I've Got Rights?

Name: _____

** Teacher's Key **

Yes! Identify the real-life rights the Bill of Rights gives you by filling in the missing words below:

effects	unusual	speedy	soldiers	place	persons
houses	eighteen	twice	soldiers	searches	gender
arms	color	property	slavery	race	persons
witness	offense	public	speech	cruel	laws
protection	petition	himself	public	seizures	papers
press	government	things	seized		

- 1) A person accused of a crime has the right to a speedy and public trial.
- 2) A warrant must describe the places to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.
- 3) People have the right to keep and bear arms.
- 4) There will be no cruel and unusual punishments.
- 5) Slavery shall not exist in the United States.
- 6) A person accused of a crime does not have to be a witness against himself.
- 7) Private property cannot be taken for public use without paying the owner a fair price.
- 8) People have the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons, houses, papers, and effects.
- 9) There can't be any law restricting peoples' freedom of speech or of the press.
- 10) People have the right to petition the government if they are unhappy.



- 11) People who are at least eighteen years old have the right to vote regardless of their race, color, or gender.
- 12) A state cannot deny anyone equal protection of the state's laws.
- 13) A person cannot be put on trial twice for the same crime.
- 14) People don't have to let soldiers live in their houses.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

If you are guilty of a crime, the judge is not allowed to sentence you to any cruel or unusual punishments. The punishment has to fit the crime; it's your constitutional right!

The government is only allowed to take away your land if the land will be used for a public purpose. And if it does take your land, the government has to give you a fair price for it.

You have the right as a citizen to keep and bear ordinary weapons.

Amendment V

No person shall . . . be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Amendment XIII

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States.

Everyone – no matter what you look like, how much money you have, or how popular you are – should be treated equally under the law.

Have something to say? The Constitution has your back. You have the right to communicate and express ideas and opinions -- to the government, in the press, and in public, even when your thoughts are controversial or unpopular.

Amendment XV

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Once you turn eighteen, the Constitution guarantees you the right to vote. So start thinking about who you want to vote for!

If someone from the government wants to go through your stuff, she needs to have a reason. For example, the police can't enter and search your property without a good reason or your permission.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

If you are on trial for a crime, you have a right to a fair and impartial jury.

Women and men have equal rights to an equal vote in all public elections.

Amendment III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner

Double jeopardy is not a game... it's a right! Once you've been found guilty or innocent, you cannot be put on trial or punished for that same crime again.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a . . . trial, by an impartial jury.

Slavery cannot exist and people can't own or buy or sell other people. This is one of the only constitutional rights that you can sometimes use against people who are not the government -- but only if they are enslaving you!

Amendment V

. . . nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment XXVI

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

Different people have different faiths, and the Constitution protects your right to practice whatever religion you choose. It also says that the government can't establish a religion or prefer one faith over another.

Amendment XIX

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Once you are arrested for a crime, you have the right to a speedy trial, one that happens soon after your arrest, and doesn't last too long.

Amendment II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial.

Amendment XIV

... No state shall ... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The government cannot force you to let soldiers into your home or onto your property. It's up to you to decide who you let inside your house!

No matter your race or ethnicity, as a citizen you have the right to vote.

