

# You've Got Rights!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**We Defeated the Aliens... Now What?** The year is 2056. After a huge battle with alien invaders that nearly destroyed the world, people are afraid about what rights they'll have under a new government. Leaders have decided to create the Pamphlet of Protections to define what rights people will have. Look at the proposed rights. Mark the **ten** you think should be included:

## 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.



Anticipation Activity

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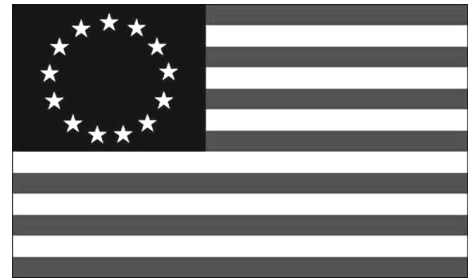
Anticipation Activity

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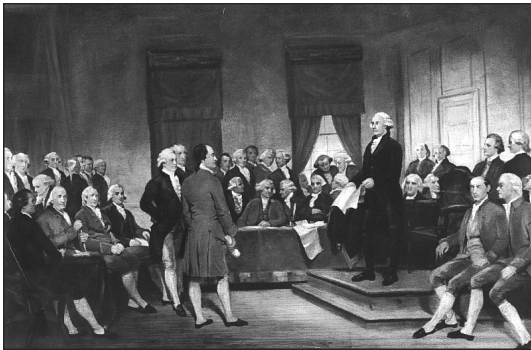
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## We Defeated the British... Now What?

The year is 1791. After a bloody war against the British, the American colonists have won their independence. The new Americans are excited, but some people are afraid about what rights they'll have under a new government. They've already suffered under the heavy hand of the British king. Now, some American leaders want to create a list of rights to define what rights American citizens will have.



*The first United States flag*



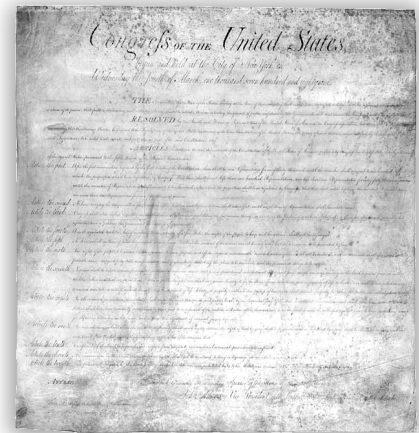
*American leaders met in private to discuss what the new Constitution should include. An artist in the 1800s imagined what the scene might have looked like and painted this image of George Washington talking to the group. Washington was a federalist.*

Leaders of the new United States of America have already written a Constitution that explains exactly how the new government will work. The only problem? It can't take effect until it's approved by the new states. And there are some state leaders who don't like it. Known as the **Anti-Federalists**, these people don't even like the Constitution. They fear a strong central government, and they are demanding that the Constitution include a list of citizens' rights. Without such a list, they warn the national government will violate people's rights. They're threatening to stop the Constitution from being approved unless a list is added.

But another group, known as the **Federalists**, insists the Constitution alone is enough to protect citizens' rights. They warn that it's impossible to list every single right that citizens should have. But once rights are written, the government could take advantage by violating rights that aren't on the list.

Both sides are convinced they're right. To move forward, they hammer out a compromise: The Bill of Rights. Instead of including a list of rights in the main part of the Constitution, they add it as the first ten **amendments**, or changes, to the Constitution. One of these amendments assures that the rights listed are not the only rights citizens have.

There are three main categories of rights: individual freedoms, protections against government abuse and power, and rights of people accused of crimes. In a few minutes, you'll read the actual text of the Bill of Rights and compare it to the Pamphlet of Protections you created.



*The original Bill of Rights*

## More and More Rights

As time went on, later amendments added more rights to the Constitution. Amending the Constitution is not an easy process—and it's not supposed to be. But the difficult process has meant that important rights were slow to evolve. After the bloody Civil War was fought between the northern and southern states, African Americans who had been enslaved in the United States gained their freedom. In the 1860s and 70s, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments added rights for former slaves and people of color. In the 20th century, the 19th and 26th Amendments added voting rights for women and citizens as young as 18. Even today, people are campaigning to amend the constitution to add rights for groups that are still disadvantaged.



*Suffragettes in the 1910s fight for women's right to vote. Women won the right in 1919.*

Pamphlet of  
Protections

## *The Bill of Rights*

Protection #

### **Amendment 1**

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 2**

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 3**

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

Protection #

### **Amendment 4**

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 5**

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 6**

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 7**

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 8**

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

Protection #  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Amendment 9**

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

Protection #  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Amendment 10**

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 13**

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 14**

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 15**

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 19**

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 26**

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've Got Rights!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Matching Activity.** Use this page to organize the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Amendment Matching: Paste



# You've Got Rights!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity.** Cut each box out and read the statement. Paste it on the amendment that is the best match.

No unreasonable searches and seizures.

The right to have a jury hear your case in a *criminal* trial.

The government cannot deprive you of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

Bail, fines and punishments must not be excessive

Did you find a *right* not listed in the Constitution? It still belongs to the people!

You don't have to house soldiers in your home during peacetime.

The right to have a jury hear your case in most *civil* trials.

Citizens can keep and bear arms.

You have the freedoms of religion, speech, press; and the right to assemble peacefully and petition the government.

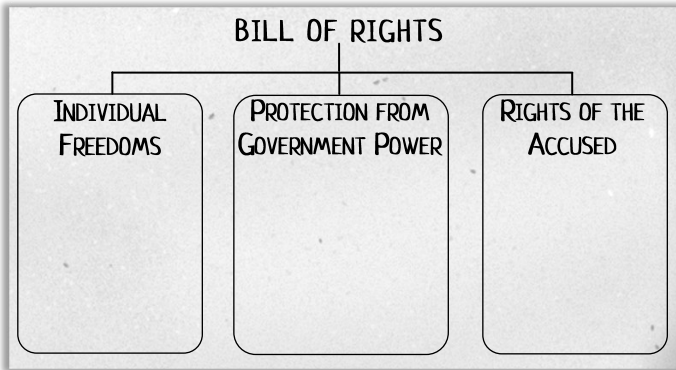
If a *power* isn't given to the federal government, it goes to the states or the people.

Amendment Matching: Cut

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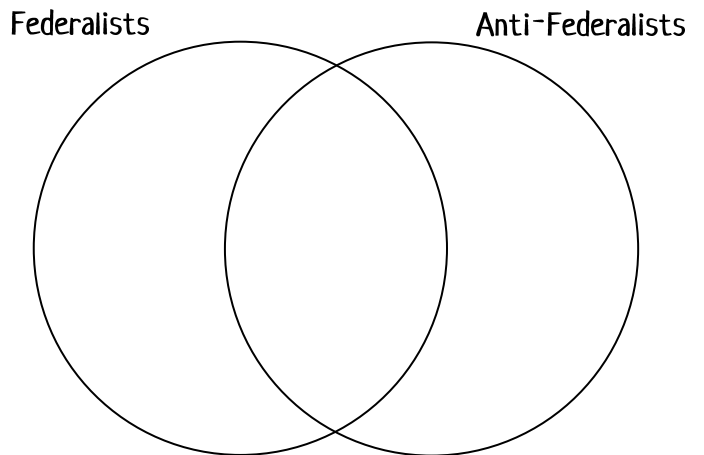
**A. Categorize.** Below is a list of rights found in the Constitutional amendments. Complete the graphic organizer writing the number of each right beneath the category it best belongs to.



- 1a. Freedom of speech.
- 1b. Right to assemble peacefully.
- 2. Right to keep and bear arms.
- 4. No unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.
- 5a. The government can't take a person's life, liberty, or property without due process of law.
- 5b. No person can be tried twice for the same crime.
- 5c. The government can't take private property without compensation.
- 6a. The right to a speedy trial.
- 6b. People accused of a crime have the right to a lawyer.
- 8. No cruel and unusual punishments.
- 9. Rights listed in the Constitution are not the only rights people have.
- 13. Slavery shall not exist in the United States.
- 15. People have the right to vote regardless of race.
- 19. Women cannot be denied the right to vote.

**B. Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist.** Decide whether each statement describes Federalists, Anti-Federalists, or both. Write the letter in the correct area of the Venn diagram below.

- A. Feared a strong central government.
- B. Thought the Constitution was enough to protect citizens' rights.
- C. Agreed to the Bill of Rights as a compromise.
- D. Worried a list of rights might be seen as the **ONLY** rights people had.
- E. Thought the Constitution needed a list of protected rights.
- F. Opposed the Constitution as-is.
- G. Believed citizens had rights that should be protected.
- H. Wanted the Constitution to be approved as-is.
- I. Believed in American independence and freedom.



**C. No Rights for You!** Use your imagination to describe the *worst possible thing* that might happen if each of these amendments were missing from the Constitution:

Without this...	...this might happen!
6th	
4th	
8th	
1st	