

Essential Question

What were the basic rights promised in the Bill of Rights?

Why You Should Care

The Bill of Rights determines how you must be treated by the government. It outlines your rights as an American.

The Bill of Rights

Congress of the

United States
begun and held at the City of New York,
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine



The Basics

- Written so people would agree to the Constitution.
- Protects and guarantees the rights of people, does not give them rights.
- Rights come from “nature and nature’s God” (John Locke)
- I don’t have freedom of speech because the 1st amendment says I do. I have it because it is a natural right.



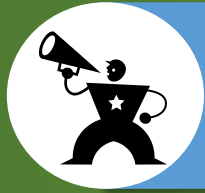
Amendment 1

The 5 Freedoms

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.

What it means

- 5 freedoms: religion, speech, press, assembly, & petition
- Only limits the government, not your parents
- Gov't can't tell you what church to go to
- You are free to criticize the gov't



Amendment 1

The 5 Freedoms

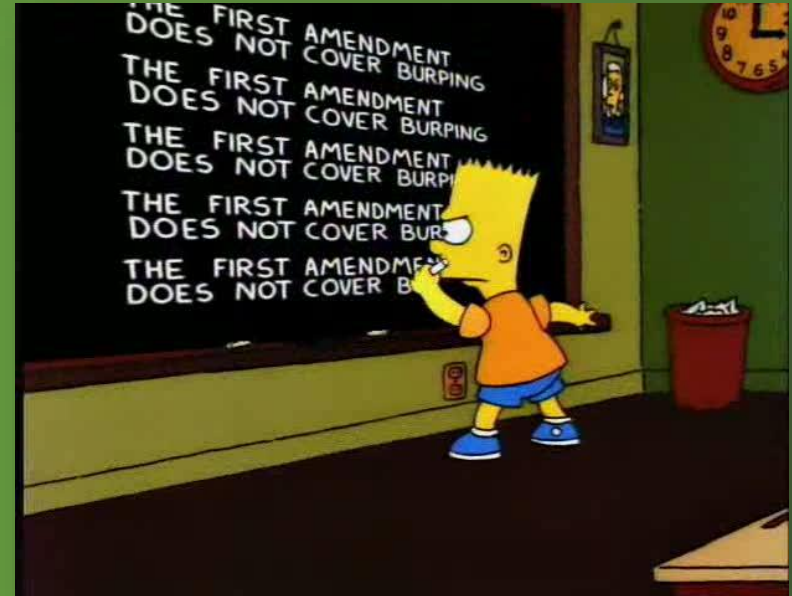
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Religion
Speech



Amendment 1

The 5 Freedoms





Amendment 1

The 5 Freedoms

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.

Religion

Speech

Press

Assembly

Petition



Amendment 1

The 5 Freedoms

The screenshot shows the 'We the People' petition platform on the White House website. The header includes the White House logo and navigation links like 'BLOG', 'PHOTOS & VIDEO', 'BRIEFING ROOM', 'ISSUES', 'the ADMINISTRATION', 'the WHITE HOUSE', and 'our GOVERNMENT'. The main banner features the text 'WE the PEOPLE YOUR VOICE IN OUR GOVERNMENT' and a 'Get Started' section with 'VIEW PETITIONS' and 'START A PETITION' buttons. Below this, a 'We the People in Three Easy Steps' guide is shown:

- Step 1:** Browse open petitions to find a petition related to your issue, and add your signature. **TAKE ACTION** → Find a petition
- Step 2:** If your issue is not currently represented by an active petition, start a new petition. **TAKE ACTION** → Start a Petition
- Step 3:** If a petition meets the signature threshold, it will be reviewed by the Administration and we will issue a response. **TAKE ACTION** → View all responses

On the right, there are sections for 'Featured Petition Responses' (with links like 'A Message from President Obama about Your Petition on Reducing Gun Violence') and 'Most Recent Petitions' (with links like 'Lift the Imposed Sanctions on Izhmash & Kalashnikov Concern'). At the bottom, a 'Recent Petitions' section shows a petition titled 'Invest in green jobs'.



Amendment 2

Promises guns for you!

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.

What it means

- Citizens have a right to own guns to protect themselves
- The Gov't (maybe...) has a right to regulate those guns (how big, how many bullets, etc.)

Brain Snack





Ponder

Why would people
have thought this
right was necessary
for their freedom?



Amendment 2

Promises guns for you!





Amendment 3

*No more soldiers
living with me!*

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

What it means

- Gov't can't force you to give up your home for soldiers to live in.



Amendment 4

*No police coming
through your door*

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.

What it means

- Gov't can't search your private things without a good reason ("probable cause")
- A judge must agree to the cause to issue a warrant to search your property.
- Still doesn't apply to parents!



Amendment 5

*No self incrimination,
So you can stay alive*

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence 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.

What it means

- You can't be tried twice for the same crime.
- You don't have to testify about yourself.
- Your stuff can't be taken by the gov't without them paying for it.



Amendment 5

*No self incrimination,
So you can stay alive*

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence 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.

Why Have It?

- Makes torture less useful (since you don't have to say anything)
- Kings previously could take anything from you without paying (land, food, etc.)

Magna Carta Reference!!!



Amendment 5

*No self incrimination,
So you can stay alive*





Amendment 6

Fair trial, no tricks!

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, 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.

What it means

- For criminal acts you are promised a fair trial.
- Crime must be proven to a jury, not just the police or a judge.

CASE NO. 183
PEOPLE V. JOHNNY
BADGUY



Amendment 6

Fair trial, no tricks!

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, 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.

Speedy, Public Jury Trial



Amendment 6

Fair trial, no tricks!

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, 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.

Speedy, Public Jury Trial
Told of Crime



Amendment 6

Fair trial, no tricks!

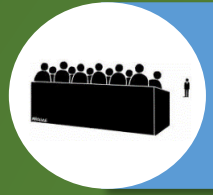
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; 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.

Speedy, Public Jury Trial

Told of Crime

Confront Witnesses

Have a Lawyer



Amendment 7

*Trial by jury, unlike
up in Heaven*

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 re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

What it means

- For civil suits (where the government is not involved) you are promised a jury trial.

CASE NO. 2102
JANEY GOODGIRL V.
JOHNNY BADGUY



Amendment 8

*Nothing cruel isn't
that great?*

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

What it means

- The punishment must fit the crime.
- Those punishments cannot be “cruel or unusual”





Amendment 9

*If it ain't here it is
still yours and mine*

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

What it means

- Listing these rights doesn't mean other rights don't exist.
- Remember: Constitution guarantees rights it does not grant them.



Amendment 10

*Not for the feds?
For the states then!*

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.

What it means

- Any power not specifically given to the Federal Gov't goes to the states or people.
- This one is pretty much ignored all the time thanks to “necessary and proper” and “commerce” clauses.



Amendment 10

*Not for the feds?
For the states then!*

- *N&P: The Congress shall have Power ... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.*
- *C: [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;*