

## I Have Rights?!

### Time Needed:

One Class Period

### Materials Needed:

Student worksheets

### Copy Instructions:

- Single-side Rights Activity p.1
- Double-side Rights Activities p.2-3
- Double-side Worksheets p.1-2

### Learning Objectives.

- Students will be able to:
- Analyze a list of potential "rights" that citizens should have.
  - Use labels to compare the rights they chose with the rights in the actual constitutional amendments.
  - Identify key vocabulary in the original language of the Bill of Rights.
  - Complete a cloze activity to demonstrate an understanding of the Bill of Rights.
  - Analyze the impact of the Bill of Rights on daily life in the US.

## STEP BY STEP

- DISTRIBUTE** one packet to each student.
- ANTICIPATE** the lesson by reading the "Fast Forward..." paragraph on the first page with students, then having them complete the checklist. Poll students to find out which rights got the most votes on the "Pamphlet of Protections."
- READ** the "Rewind..." paragraph with students.
- 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 appear in the Bill of rights.
- PREVIEW** the Bill of Rights pages together. Point out that these are "amendments" (additions/changes) to the Constitution of the United States. Point out the side where students will write which "pamphlet protection" correspond with each amendment (some amendments will have no corresponding "protection" and some will have more than one).
- READ** the Bill of Rights page as a class, pausing to explain as necessary. As you read, provide students with a synonym for each bold word. Have students write a synonym next to each bold word. (See call outs on the Teacher's Guide). As you read, ask students to identify which (if any) "pamphlet protections" correspond with the amendments. Have them write the number of the protection on the line provided next to each amendment.
- INSTRUCT** students to take two minutes to discuss in partners which "pamphlet protections" were not in the Bill of rights. Conduct a quick check for understanding.
- DISTRIBUTE** worksheet pages 1-2 to students, reviewing the instructions for each activity.
- CLOSE** the class by reviewing student answers to question #6 on worksheet p.2. This question may need deeper analysis. If students answer "yes," ask them to read the text of the amendment they cited in support of their answer. Then ask them to reevaluate their answers.

# I Have Rights?!

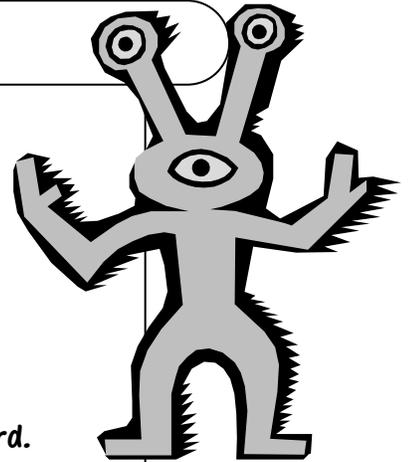
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fast Forward . . .** 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!

## 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.

# I Have Rights?!

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

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 #  
\_\_\_\_\_

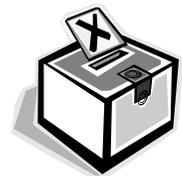
## Amendment 14

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 14

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.

# I Have Rights?!

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

**Fill in the Blank.** 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.

# I Have Rights?!

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

**Can They Do That?** Read each person's story and decide if that person has a right. If so, which of the amendments found in the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments) gives them that right?

1) I dyed my hair green because I wanted to make a statement. I didn't think that statement would be, "Search my backpack!" A police officer stopped me and said that he was going to search my backpack because he didn't like my hair color. Do I have a right to privacy in this circumstance?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

4) I know there is a law against keeping lions as pets in my town, but as long as I keep it on my property I should be allowed to have one! That's what private property is all about, right? Do I have a right to do what I want on my property?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_



2) I was arrested 12 months ago. I've been accused of speeding, but I haven't been given an opportunity to defend myself against the charge. I think they're just going to leave me in this jail forever! Do I have a right to a speedy and fair trial?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_



5) I am Buddhist, which means that I practice the religion of Buddhism. I just moved to a new town that has banned all religion. The sheriff has threatened to arrest me if I don't take an oath against religion. Do I have a right to practice religion?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

3) I do not like our mayor at all. I think he has made some very bad choices and is not managing our town very well. I'm going to practice my free speech by spray painting a message for the whole town on the mayor's front door. Do I have a right to free speech through vandalism?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

6) As punishment for accidentally breaking my neighbor's window, I have to replace all the windows that break in our town for the next year... while wearing a silly hat and embarrassing outfit! Do I have a right to fight my punishment?

NO       YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_



**A World Without?** Imagine what life would be like if our rights weren't protected. In complete sentences, describe what might happen if each of these amendments were missing from the Constitution.

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

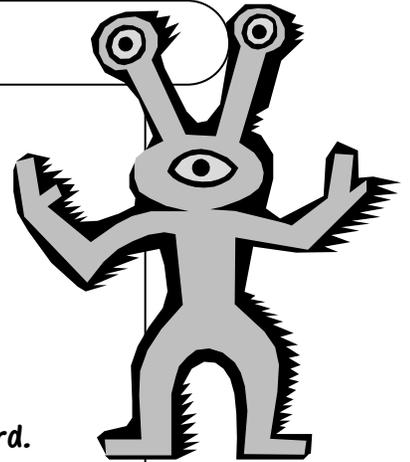
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The following are rights that some of the leaders think should be included in the Pamphlet of Protections. They want your input. Mark your top 10 choices below:

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

## *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 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!

*Pamphlet of  
Protections*

## The Bill of Rights

Protection #  
3, 15

### Amendment 1

reducing

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complaints

ask

fix

Protection #  
1

### Amendment 2

country

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

violated

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

housed



Protection #  
11

### Amendment 4

things

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 5

forced

crime

danger

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 6

trials

neutral

fair

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

required

lawyer

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 8

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



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

### Amendment 9 list

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

interpreted

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

### Amendment 10 given

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 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 #  
9

### Amendment 14 given citizenship

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.

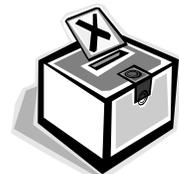
rights

things you don't have to do

Protection #  
7

### Amendment 14

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Protection #  
7

### Amendment 19

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Protection #  
7

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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 person 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.

**Can They Do That?** Read each person's story and decide if that person has a right. If so, which of the amendments found in the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments) gives them that right?

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NO  YES, in Amendment # 4th

2) I was arrested 12 months ago. I've been accused of speeding, but I haven't been given an opportunity to defend myself against the charge. I think they're just going to leave me in this jail forever! Do I have a right to a speedy and fair trial?



NO  YES, in Amendment # 6th

3) I do not like our mayor at all. I think he has made some very bad choices and is not managing our town very well. I'm going to practice my free speech by spray painting a message for the whole town on the mayor's front door. Do I have a right to free speech through vandalism?

NO  YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

4) As punishment for accidentally breaking my neighbor's window, I have to replace all the windows that break in our town for the next year... while wearing a silly hat and embarrassing outfit! Do I have a right to fight this punishment?



NO  YES, in Amendment # 8th

5) I am Buddhist, which means that I practice the religion of Buddhism. I just moved to a new town that has banned all religion. The sheriff has threatened to arrest me if I don't take an oath against religion. Do I have a right to practice religion?

NO  YES, in Amendment # 1st

6) I know there is a law against keeping lions as pets in my town, but as long as I keep it on my property I should be allowed to have one! That's what private property is all about, right? Do I have a right to do what I want on my property?



NO  YES, in Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

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