

Bill of Rights (1791)

The following summary of the ten rights that are in the Bill of Rights is to be used with the “Bill of Rights Worksheet” AND “I Have Rights”.

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.

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 III

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.

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.

Amendment VI

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.

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.

Amendment VIII

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

Amendment IX

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

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.

Bill of Rights Worksheet

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____

Directions: Read each situation below very carefully. Next use the handout “Bill of Rights” you were given to name the amendment or Bill of Right that is being exercised in each of the following situations in the space provided:

1. Arturo was stopped by a police officer on his way home from school. The police officer wanted to search Arturo’s backpack because he heard a teenage boy had just robbed the candy store on the corner. Arturo said to the officer, “Do you have a warrant?” The officer said, “no.” Tigran informed the officer that he could not search his bag because it violated his rights. _____

2. Esperanza arrived home one evening to find a member of the United States navy sitting at the dining room table eating dinner with her parents. Esperanza quickly turned to her parents and said, “Why is there a military person in our home?” Esperanza’s parents said, “We were told we had to house this soldier.” Esperanza quickly kicked the soldier out and said to him, “Read the Bill of Rights.”

3. Rafi is upset over the current curfew effecting teenagers throughout Diamond Bar. Rafi decided that he was going to collect as many signatures as he could on a petition and present it to the city government’s office. _____

4. Joseph, a recent immigrant to the United States, was driving around the city of Los Angeles and noticed that there were churches and temples from several different religions located throughout the city. He was amazed at the fact that people in the United States could practice and worship any religion of their choice. _____

5. On January 10, 2002, Gerard was arrested for trespassing on his neighbor’s property. When he appeared before the judge to set his trial date, the judge told him his trial would take place on January 24, 2006. Juan immediately informed the judge that this date was unacceptable. _____

6. Nowhere in the Constitution does it talk about what part of the federal government is in charge of education. Today each individual state controls and sets the standards for their state’s educational system. _____

7. Mary was caught littering in the park one day after school. When she went to trial, the jury found her guilty since there was a ton of evidence showing her guilt. The judge decided to give Mary a special sentence. He wanted Mary to walk from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. Along her journey across the country, Mary had to fill up 1 million bags of trash with litter she found along the roads. Mary quickly informed the judge she did not have to fulfill this sentence. _____

8. Stephanie was told that she could not wear her favorite shirt anymore. Instead she had to wear shirts that were only approved by the federal clothing agency. Stephanie knew that this rule could not possibly be true because she learned about the Bill of Rights in school. _____

9. Elias wrote a nice lengthy article for the *Daily News* describing the changes students would like to see at Diamond Bar High School. The principal tried to stop Elias’s article from being published in the local newspaper, but she was unsuccessful. _____

10. Nancy visited one of her elderly neighbors and noticed that she had a gun locked away in one of her cabinets. During the visit, Nancy turned to her neighbor and asked, “Why do you have a gun in your house?” Her neighbor simply said, “I am exercising my right to own a gun legally.” _____

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	