The Bill of Rights

Illustrate the Amendments

When the leaders of the newly formed United States finished writing the Constitution, their work wasn’t done. The thirteen states had to agree to it.

The thirteen states wanted to add a set of amendments describing the rights of all people. Ten rights, called the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution in 1791.

Read the amendments below, then illustrate them in the boxes provided. Be sure to use the Vocabulary Key, on the last page, to look up words that may be unfamiliar to you (highlighted in bold.)

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**First Amendment**

“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.”
Second Amendment
“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.”

Third Amendment
“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.”
**Fourth Amendment**

“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.”

**Fifth Amendment**

“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 of naval forces, or in a militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person 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.”
**Sixth Amendment**

“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 where 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.”

**Seventh Amendment**

“In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be perservered, 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.”
**Eighth Amendment**

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

**Ninth Amendment**

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

“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.”

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**Vocabulary Key**

- **abridge** to shorten without removing basic contents.
- **affirmation** the act of firmly declaring or maintaining something as true.
- **assemble** to gather (things or persons) into a group.
- **ascertain** to come to know (some information) with complete certainty, especially through a process of investigation; determine.
- **bail** an amount of money or other property left with a court to ensure that a person who is released after arrest will return to stand trial.
- **capital crime** a crime for which punishment may be death.
- **compensation** something given or received in return or reparation for something else, such as wages for work or a cash settlement for injuries sustained.
- **compulsory** required or obligatory.
- **confront** to meet or face without evasion or avoidance.
- **construe** to comprehend or explain the meaning or intention of; assign a meaning to; interpret.
- **consent** to give agreement, approval, or permission.
- **delegate** a person who is authorized to speak or act for one or more others, such as a representative to a conference or convention.
- **disparage** to depreciate or belittle, esp. in speech.
- **excessive** more than is required, expected, or considered reasonable; extravagant or immoderate.
- **enumeration** the act or process of naming or listing one by one.
- **indictment** a formal written accusation presented by a grand jury to a court for prosecution of a serious crime.
- **infamous** having, deserving, or causing a bad reputation; notorious or shameful.
- **infringe** to cross established limits; encroach; trespass.
- **jeopardy** danger, as of harm, death, or loss; peril.
- **grievance** an injustice considered a cause for complaint, or the complaint resulting from such an injustice.
- **militia** a military body of trained civilians, usu. active only in emergencies.
- **persevere** to continue steadfastly in a task or course of action or hold steadfastly to a belief or commitment, esp. when met with opposition or difficulties; persist.
- **prescribe** to lay down as a rule or guide.
- **presentment** the act of presenting something, such as an idea or a promissory note.
- **prohibit** to forbid (an action) by authority.
- **redress** compensation or reparation; amends.
- **retain** to maintain possession or use of.
- **reserve** to hold back or save for later use.
- **seizures** a taking, esp. of property, by legal force.
- **quarter** a place of lodging, esp. temporary.
- **violate** to break or breach (a law, contract, covenant, or the like).

*Source: Wordsmythe.net*