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*My Rights and Liberties: SS.7.CG.2.3*

***The Bill of Rights and Amendments***

**READING #1**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



***SS.7.CG.2.3 Benchmark Clarification 1****:* Students will recognize that the Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The **Bill of Rights** refers to the first ten **amendments** to the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution in 1791, four years after the U.S. Constitution was **ratified**. These amendments define individual freedoms, explain the rights of those accused of a crime, define citizens’ protections from the national government and extend powers to the states.

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| **Amendment** | **Description** |
| 1 | The **First Amendment** provides **religious** **freedom** and rights that connect to freedom of speech. The government may not make laws that an establish or show favoritism towards a specific religion. Individual rights are protected in that Congress can make no laws that prohibit **freedom of speech**, **freedom to assemble, freedom to petition the government,** and **freedom of the press** |
| 2 | The **Second Amendment** protects the right to keep and bear **arms** for a well-regulated militia. |
| 3 | The **Third Amendment** prevents government taking over private homes for the purpose of **quartering (housing)** soldiers. |
| 4 | The **Fourth Amendment** requires the use of warrants and prevents the government from conducting **unreasonable searches and seizures**. A warrant cannot be obtained without probable cause. |
| 5 | The **Fifth Amendment** protects individuals accused of a crime and individuals from government abusing power. It requires criminal charges to come from a **grand jury**. When in a trial, people have the right to face their accusers, not testify against themselves (**self-incrimination**), and fair procedures (**rule of law**) must be followed. A person cannot be tried twice for the same offense (**double jeopardy**). In addition, the Takings Clause states that the government cannot take private property unless they pay **just compensation**. |
| 6 | The**Sixth Amendment** also grants protections to people accused of crimes. These rights include: right to a **speedy trial,** an **impartial jury,** be **informed of the crime** you are being charged with**,** right to **face accusers,** right to **provide witnesses** for your defense**,** and the right to an **attorney**. |
| 7 | The **Seventh Amendment** guarantees a **jury trial** in federal civil cases |
| 8 | The **Eighth Amendment** grants freedom from **excessive bail and fines** and **cruel** **and unusual punishment.** |
| 9 | The **Ninth Amendment** explains that people have **other rights** but not everything is listed in the Constitution. |
| 10 | The **Tenth Amendment** says that the federal government possesses only those **powers** delegated in the Constitution. If a power is not listed, that power reserved to the states or to the people. |

**amendment** - a change to a constitution (e.g., U.S. Constitution, Florida Constitution)

**Bill of Rights** - the first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution

**ratify** - to confirm by expressing consent; formally approve

**Source:**

National Archives and Records Administration. (2022, February 15). *The bill of rights: What does it say?* National

Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights/what-does-it-say>