



My Rights and Liberties: SS.7.CG.2.3 Name: _____
**The Bill of Rights and
 Amendments**
READING #1

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.

Amendment	Description
1	The First Amendment provides religious freedom and rights that connect to freedom of speech. The government may not make laws that 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>