BILL OF RIGHTS
FUNBOOK
A TEACHER’S GUIDE
THE DELAWARE SUPREME COURT
Introduction

No laws have greater impact on the everyday lives of the citizens of our country than those laws that stem from the first 10 Amendments to the United States Constitution—the Bill of Rights. The “Bill of Rights funbook” for grades 3 to 6 is designed to promote the classroom discussion about the adoption and application of these important rights. Several activities are provided to assist educators in teaching children about the Bill of Rights. The funbook may be used to supplement your classroom resources.

The Delaware Supreme Court will provide free copies to each teacher of grades 3 to 6 in Delaware as long as supplies last. To order, call 255-2474.

This updated edition is a teacher’s guide with an answer key at the back. Teachers are encouraged to photocopy pages from this booklet for distribution to students.
The Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States are called the Bill of 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 V
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 or naval forces, or in the 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.

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 re-examined 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.
Say It Again, Sam

The Bill of Rights is written in very formal English. Do you know what each one of the following statements really means?

Draw a line from each amendment to its meaning.

1. Freedom of religion, speech, of the press and right to petition.
2. Right to keep and bear arms.
3. Soldiers should not be quartered in people’s homes without consent.
4. Right to be free from an unreasonable search and seizure.
5. Provisions concerning prosecution and protection of accused.
7. Right of trial by jury.
8. Prohibition of excessive bail or fines and cruel punishment.
9. Rights reserved to the people.
10. Rights reserved to the States under the Constitution.

a. People do not have to allow soldiers in their homes in times of war or peace.
b. Right to a speedy trial with witnesses.
c. Cannot be tried twice for the same crime.
d. No one person can decide if innocent or guilty.
e. A person may not be tortured.
f. Education, marriage, divorce laws.
g. Right to own guns.*
h. A person may worship as he or she chooses and speak and print information of his or her choice.
i. A search warrant must be used to look in your home.
j. People have other rights besides those in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

*Teachers should discuss with students the responsibilities and restrictions the law places upon gun ownership. Emphasize safety issues as well, i.e., guns are not toys and children should not play with them.
The Making of Our Constitution

Look at the pictures in the boxes below. Write a number from 1 to 6 in the circle in each box to show the correct order. Cut the pictures apart, put them in order and staple them together to make a mini-book.

1. The United States Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787.
3. After the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, Americans decided they needed a stronger government.
4. In 1791, most states agreed that rights of individuals should be protected. They voted to ratify 10 Amendments, now called the Bill of Rights.
5. The Articles of Confederation set up our first government. Adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777, the Articles of Confederation were not approved by the states until 1781.
6. Individuals, like George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, planned a convention in 1786 to amend the Articles of Confederation.
The 28th Amendment

In over 200 years, only 27 amendments have been ratified. You decide what the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution should be.
Trivia

1. Which session of the Federal Congress submitted the Bill of Rights?
   a. First    b. Second    c. Third    d. Fourth
2. In what year was the Bill of Rights originally submitted?
   a. 1776    b. 1787    c. 1789    d. 1791
3. New Jersey was the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights. In what year did New Jersey ratify?
   a. 1776    b. 1787    c. 1789    d. 1791
4. How many amendments were originally sent to the states for ratification in 1789?
   a. 8    b. 10    c. 12    d. 14
5. How many states ratified the amendments by the end of 1791?
   a. 8    b. 11    c. 12    d. 14
6. How many amendments to the Constitution have been ratified?
   a. 26    b. 27    c. 28    d. 29
7. When was the last amendment to the Constitution ratified?
   a. 1719    b. 1791    c. 1917    d. 1992
8. What was the first city to host the Federal Congress?
Unscramble these words about the Bill of Rights.

1. REFDMOE
2. NGCOSSER
3. OPEPEL
4. SASTTE
5. HRGITS
6. LBIL
7. RALIT
8. DPAODTE
9. RMEVGNONTE
10. MMNNTSEDEA
11. LUIVDADNII
12. MEARACI
Bill of Rights
Word Search

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ADOPTED  AMENDMENT  AMERICA  BILL  CONGRESS  FREEDOM  GOVERNMENT  INDIVIDUAL  JURY  LIBERTY  MADISON  OFFICIAL  PEOPLE  PROTECT  RATIFY  RIGHTS  STATES  TRIAL
Match the vocabulary words on the left with the meanings on the right. Write the correct letter in the blank next to the vocabulary word. The first one has been done for you.

A. Constitution  A. A set of rules for the United States.
B. amend  B. A list of rights added to the Constitution.
C. checks and balance  C. A meeting of people to talk about the same subject.
D. trial  D. A breaking of a law.
E. Executive Branch  E. The highest court in the United States.
F. crime  F. A part of the whole.
G. President  G. A way to make sure one group is not more powerful than another group.
H. Judicial Branch  H. The part of government that makes the laws.
I. Supreme Court  I. To change; to improve.
J. Legislative Branch  J. The part of government that enforces the laws.
K. branch  K. The way a dispute is settled in a court of law.
L. Bill of Rights  L. The part of government that interprets the laws.
M. convention  M. The head of the Executive Branch.
An AMENDMENT is a change for the better. Use the letters in the word “amendment” to form different words.

Example: meet  

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Help the patriot find the Bill of Rights.
Bill of Rights Puzzler

ACROSS

1. A statement with changes upon the original.
2. A group of people who hear a trial; from the 7th Amendment.
3. The 3rd Amendment said that you did not have to keep these people in your home.
4. There were 13 of these originally.
5. Father of the Constitution.
6. What the Bill of Rights assured for individuals.
7. Used to knit with.
8. The 6th Amendment provides this to people accused of crimes.
9. You are innocent until proven ____________
10. The 4th Amendment says a warrant is needed to do this.

DOWN

1. Get together as a group.
3. Freedom.
4. Exact.
5. Protected by the 1st Amendment.
7. Hesitate.
8. That to which anyone is entitled.
Dot to Dot

Connect the dots to show an important moment in our history.
Choose a Career

The Bill of Rights grants all of us freedoms that many people living in other countries of the world do not enjoy. Complete the word hunt of career choices.

ACCOUNTANT  BUYER  ECONOMIST
ARTIST  CARPENTER  FARMER
ASTRONAUT  CHEF  PILOT
ASTRONOMER  CLERK  TELLER
BAKER  COACH  WRITER
Label and color the 11 states that ratified the Bill of Rights by the end of 1791.
Research the Bill of Rights

Answer the following questions about the Bill of Rights. You can respond to the questions individually, as a small group, or as part of a class discussion.

1. What do the words “bear arms” refer to in the Second Amendment?*

2. The Sixth Amendment states that all accused persons have the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury. Explain the meaning of this trial process.

3. The Third Amendment says no soldier shall in time of peace, nor in time of war unless prescribed by law, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner. Why was this such an important amendment in 1791?

4. Expressed in the Fourth Amendment are the individual protections from unfair search and seizure. What does this mean? Under what circumstances may government authorities search an individual?

* Teachers should also discuss with students the responsibilities and restrictions the law places upon gun ownership. Emphasize safety issues as well, i.e., guns are not toys and children should not play with them.
Make a Quill Pen

Cut this strip out and wrap it around your pen so that the pen is covered.

Cut this feather out and tape it to your pen.
The Pledge of Allegiance

101 years after the first 11 states ratified the Bill of Rights, Francis Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was first printed in a Boston magazine on September 8, 1892. Soon after, the pledge was recited by schoolchildren each day. Francis Bellamy’s pledge read:

*I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

The words “of the United States of America” were added later. On Flag Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law which added the words “under God” to the pledge.

This is the form by which we know the Pledge of Allegiance today:

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Questions

1. The pledge was first printed in a _________________________________

2. Our government is a _________________________________

3. What word means “said aloud”? _________________________________

4. Another word for “country” is _________________________________

5. What word means “cannot be divided”? _________________________________

6. The pledge is a promise of _________________________________

7. What words were added to the first pledge? _________________________________
The Bill of Rights Gives Me Freedom

Write a thank you note to the framers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights for ensuring your right to live in a free country. Explain which right or rights are most important to you. Cut and fold the card below before you begin writing.

Thank You for My Freedom
Today's Center of Government:  
The District of Columbia

Today your rights and freedoms are kept strong because our government works for you. Follow the clues above to complete this exercise.
Answer Key

SAY IT AGAIN, SAM (from page 4)
Answers: 1. h, 2. g, 3. a, 4. i, 5. c, 6. b, 7. d, 8. e, 9. j, 10. f

TRIVIA (from page 7)
Answers: 1. a, 2. c, 3. c, 4. c, 5. b, 6. b, 7. d, 8. a

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS ABOUT THE BILL OF RIGHTS (from page 9)

MATCHING WORDS TO THE VOCABULARY (from page 11)

BILL OF RIGHTS PUZZLER (from page 14)

STATES THAT RATIFIED BILL OF RIGHTS BY 1791 (states are listed in alphabetical order as follows from page 17):
Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont and Virginia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE QUESTIONS (from page 20)

TODAY’S CENTER OF GOVERNMENT (from page 22)
Answers: Washington, Treasury, Congress, Senate, Executive, Capital, Potomac, Court, Memorials, White House.
Acknowledgments

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Liberty & Justice for All

and that includes ME!

Super Effort!

student

teacher

date