

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BILL OF RIGHTS



When the Framers were writing the Constitution, they were trying to accomplish many different goals. They wanted to join the states together under one primary body. They also wanted to be sure that the states, and particularly the individuals in the states, would still have independence and rights. It was a difficult balance, and many representatives had different ideas about how to succeed.

One of the decisions they made was to keep the parts guaranteeing the rights of individuals separate. First, they wrote the Constitution. Then they amended, or added on, the parts about individual rights. The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights gives U.S. citizens rights as individuals. It limits the power of the federal government to interfere with these rights. Some of the Rights reflect the fear that the Founding Fathers had of a government that would be too powerful. Some of the Rights reflect their idealism. Many of the Rights are so well-known to us that we don't even know the full text of the amendment but can easily recognize the phrases. "Trial by jury" "cruel and unusual punishment" "unreasonable search and seizure" and "right to bear arms" are all phrases from the original wording of the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights and the Constitution are guaranteed. Neither the state nor the federal government can take away the rights that are guaranteed by these documents. These rights are considered as essential to the foundation of the United States.

The Bill of Rights is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It is a reflection of the values held by the Founding Fathers. The values in the Bill of Rights are the ones that they most wanted to pass on to future generations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the questions about *THE BILL OF RIGHTS***

1. Who wrote the Bill of Rights?
  - a. The Founding Fathers
  - b. The Pilgrims
  - c. George Washington
  - d. Benjamin Franklin
  
2. What is it famous for?
  - a. It guarantees the rights of the federal government
  - b. It guarantees the rights of the state governments
  - c. It guarantees the rights of individuals
  - d. It gives all power back to the Crown
  
3. How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights?
  - a. five
  - b. ten
  - c. twenty-seven
  - d. none of the above
  
4. When was it written?
  - a. After the Declaration of Independence, but before the Constitution
  - b. Before the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
  - c. After the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
  - d. Before the Declaration of Independence, but after the Constitution
  
5. Why is it considered as a symbol of America?
  - a. It shows the power of the federal government
  - b. Ten is a lucky number for Americans
  - c. It is in a glass case in the National Archives
  - d. It reflects the ideals of the Founding Fathers

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to *THE BILL OF RIGHTS***

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. d