Rights in Action

From colonial concerns to rights citizens use today

SS24.6.17 "Explain key rights included in the Bill of Rights and provide examples of how citizens exercise these rights in today's society. 17a Trace the origins of rights contained in the Bill of Rights to issues leading to the American Revolution..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the colonists' concern about searches, circle the amendment that responds to it, and number two ways people can use rights today. These marks will help you connect a past concern to present actions.

How Rights Took Shape

1. In the 1760s and 1770s, British officials used broad search orders to look for smuggled goods in colonists' homes and shops. Many colonists feared that officials could enter without a good reason. Colonists also protested laws passed without their elected representatives in Parliament. After independence, Americans debated how to stop a new national government from gaining too much power. In 1791, the first ten amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution. The Fourth Amendment limits unreasonable searches. The First Amendment protects speech, peaceful assembly, and petitions to the government.

2. In 1803, a dispute over an undelivered government appointment reached the Supreme Court in Marbury v. Madison. The Court ruled that part of a federal law conflicted with the Constitution and could not stand. This decision established judicial review, the Supreme Court's power to decide whether laws violate the Constitution. Today, a resident might speak at a town meeting or sign a petition asking leaders to change a rule. Someone facing a government search might question whether officers had a legal reason. Courts can check government power when a law conflicts with the Constitution.

3. The original Constitution did not protect voting equally for everyone. After the Civil War, formerly enslaved people and their allies worked to gain political rights. The Fifteenth Amendment banned denying the vote because of race, color, or previous enslavement. Women organized marches and petitions for decades before the Nineteenth Amendment banned denying the vote because of sex. Later, the Twenty-fourth Amendment banned poll taxes in federal elections, removing a barrier used to keep many Black citizens from voting. The Twenty-sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 after young people pushed for change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Fourth Amendment respond to a concern colonists had about British officials?

2. Choose one action a resident could take today from the passage. Which First Amendment right would that action exercise?

3. Why did the decision in Marbury v. Madison matter for limiting government power?

4. What did women do to seek voting rights, and how did the Nineteenth Amendment expand those rights?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town bans all peaceful gatherings in its public park, and an 18-year-old citizen wants to challenge the ban. In 3 to 4 sentences, explain a Bill of Rights protection the citizen could use, a way the citizen could act, which amendment protects their right to vote based on age, and how judicial review could limit the ban.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Action

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.17

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the colonists' concern about searches, circle the amendment that responds to it, and number two ways people can use rights today. These marks will help you connect a past concern to present actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Fourth Amendment respond to a concern colonists had about British officials?	**Colonists feared officials could enter homes and shops without a good reason. The Fourth Amendment limits unreasonable searches.**
2	Choose one action a resident could take today from the passage. Which First Amendment right would that action exercise?	**A resident could sign a petition asking leaders to change a rule, exercising the right to petition the government. Speaking at a town meeting exercises freedom of speech.**
3	Why did the decision in Marbury v. Madison matter for limiting government power?	**It established judicial review, allowing the Supreme Court to decide whether a law violates the Constitution and reject a conflicting law.**
4	What did women do to seek voting rights, and how did the Nineteenth Amendment expand those rights?	**Women organized marches and petitions. The Nineteenth Amendment banned denying the vote because of sex.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The First Amendment protects peaceful assembly, so the citizen could ask neighbors to join a peaceful gathering in the park. The citizen could also petition town leaders to change the ban. The Twenty-sixth Amendment protects the right of citizens who are at least 18 to vote based on age. If someone challenged the ban in court, the Supreme Court could use judicial review to decide whether it violates the Constitution and strike it down if it does.

For the marking job, accept either speaking at a town meeting or signing a petition as a present-day use of the First Amendment. In Part 3, accept a court challenge that could lead to the ban being struck down if it violates the Constitution, not a claim that every park rule is automatically unconstitutional.