

# Rights and Rules

Read how key founding documents shaped the United States government.

**SS4CG1** "Describe the meaning of:"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the words that explain the meaning of each civic term. In the margin, number the five terms in the order you find them.

### Building a New Government

- ① Long ago, many people believed that every person has natural rights. These are rights people are born with, such as life, liberty, and the chance to seek happiness. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence announced that the thirteen colonies would no longer be ruled by Great Britain. It explained that people have natural rights and listed complaints about the king.
- ② After the colonies won independence, the new country needed stronger rules for governing. In 1787, delegates met at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. They discussed problems and wrote a plan for the nation. That plan became the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution sets up the national government, explains its powers, and can be changed through a process called an amendment, which has special rules.
- ③ Some people worried that the Constitution did not clearly protect enough individual freedoms. In 1791, the first ten amendments were added. They are called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights protects freedoms such as speech, religion, and a fair trial. It also limits what the national government can do in certain situations. Together, these documents guide the country's government.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

1 What are natural rights? Name one example from the passage.

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2 What did the Declaration of Independence announce, and what idea did it explain?

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3 What happened at the Constitutional Convention, and what did the delegates' plan become?

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4 How is the job of the Constitution different from the job of the Bill of Rights?

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## 3 YOUR TURN \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences for a new student. Explain how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights work together, and include one freedom protected by the Bill of Rights.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the words that explain the meaning of each civic term. In the margin, number the five terms in the order you find them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What are natural rights? Name one example from the passage.                              | <b>Natural rights are rights people are born with. Examples include life, liberty, or the chance to seek happiness.</b>                                                                    |
| 2 | What did the Declaration of Independence announce, and what idea did it explain?         | <b>It announced that the thirteen colonies would no longer be ruled by Great Britain. It explained that people have natural rights.</b>                                                    |
| 3 | What happened at the Constitutional Convention, and what did the delegates' plan become? | <b>Delegates discussed problems and wrote a plan for the nation. Their plan became the Constitution of the United States.</b>                                                              |
| 4 | How is the job of the Constitution different from the job of the Bill of Rights?         | <b>The Constitution sets up the national government and explains its powers. The Bill of Rights protects individual freedoms and limits the national government in certain situations.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The Constitution explains how the national government is set up and what powers it has. The Bill of Rights protects individual freedoms, including freedom of speech.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately distinguish the Constitution's government structure and powers from the Bill of Rights' protections for individual freedoms. For the open response, check for exactly two sentences, both documents, and one accurate protected freedom.