

Rights Set Limits

Read how the Bill of Rights protects people and limits government power.

SS4CG3.b "Identify and explain the rights in the Bill of Rights, describe how the Bill of Rights places limits on the powers of government, and explain the reasons for its inclusion in the Constitution in 1791."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right or freedom, circle each phrase that tells how government is limited, and draw a box around the reason the Bill of Rights was added.

Promises Written Down

- ① In 1791, the first ten amendments were added to the Constitution. Together, they are called the Bill of Rights. Many people worried that the new national government might become too powerful. They wanted written promises to protect people and states. Adding these amendments helped win support for the Constitution by listing freedoms that government had to respect.
- ② The Bill of Rights names important freedoms. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. People may share ideas, practice a religion, publish news, meet peacefully, and ask government to fix a problem. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms. These rights let people take part in public life.
- ③ These amendments also limit government power. The Fourth Amendment usually requires a warrant based on probable cause before an unreasonable search or seizure. The Fifth Amendment says government must follow fair legal steps and cannot take private property for public use without just compensation. The Sixth Amendment promises a speedy, public trial and a lawyer in criminal cases. These rules help prevent unfair treatment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did many people want the Bill of Rights, and how did adding it help win support for the Constitution?

2 Name two freedoms protected by the First Amendment. Explain one way a person can use one of those freedoms.

3 How does the Fourth Amendment limit government power during a search or seizure?

4 What protection does the Fifth Amendment give about private property? What protection does the Sixth Amendment give in criminal cases?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a city worker wants to enter a family's home because of an unproven rumor. Write three sentences that name the amendment that applies, explain the limit on the worker, and tell why people in 1791 wanted a written protection like this.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right or freedom, circle each phrase that tells how government is limited, and draw a box around the reason the Bill of Rights was added. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many people want the Bill of Rights, and how did adding it help win support for the Constitution?	People feared the new national government might become too powerful and wanted written protections. The amendments helped win support by listing freedoms government had to respect.
2	Name two freedoms protected by the First Amendment. Explain one way a person can use one of those freedoms.	Answers may name any two of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. For example, freedom of speech lets people share ideas.
3	How does the Fourth Amendment limit government power during a search or seizure?	It usually requires a warrant based on probable cause before an unreasonable search or seizure.
4	What protection does the Fifth Amendment give about private property? What protection does the Sixth Amendment give in criminal cases?	Government cannot take private property for public use without just compensation. In criminal cases, people have the right to a speedy, public trial and a lawyer.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Fourth Amendment applies to this situation. The worker should not search the home without a warrant based on probable cause, because the amendment limits unreasonable searches. In 1791, people wanted written promises like this because they feared a national government with too much power.

Accept equivalent explanations using the passage's ideas about rights, fair legal steps, and limits on government. For the open response, accept a different realistic situation if the student accurately names the Fourth Amendment, explains its limit, and gives the 1791 reason.