Rights Take Shape

Trace how concerns became the Bill of Rights.

5.H.15 "Describe the origins and drafting of the Bill of Rights that was ratified in 1791."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the concern that led people to ask for protections. Then number four actions, from Madison's draft to the states' approval, in the order they happened.

From Concern to Law

1. In 1787, delegates at a meeting in Philadelphia wrote the U.S. Constitution. It set up a new national government but did not list many protections for individual freedoms. As states considered whether to approve it, some people worried that the new government might gain too much power. They asked for a written list of rights, including freedom of speech and religion, to protect people from that power.

2. Supporters of the Constitution wanted the new government to begin. They promised that Congress would consider amendments, or changes, to protect rights. James Madison, who had helped write the Constitution, took this promise seriously. In 1789, he studied suggestions from the states and wrote proposed amendments. His work turned people's concerns into words that Congress could discuss, change, and vote on.

3. Congress debated Madison's proposals and revised them. In September 1789, Congress sent twelve proposed amendments to the states for approval. States did not accept all twelve. By December 1791, enough states had approved ten, so those ten became part of the Constitution. We call them the Bill of Rights. They protect freedoms such as speech and religion and set rules for fair treatment in court.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did some people ask for a written list of rights as states considered the Constitution?

2. How did Madison turn people's calls for rights into a draft Congress could use?

3. What did Congress do with Madison's proposals before sending them to the states?

4. How did the number of amendments sent to the states compare with the number that became the Bill of Rights in 1791?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label titled “From Concern to Law.” In four or five sentences, explain how worries about the new government led to the drafting and approval of the Bill of Rights. Include at least three events in order and one example of a protected right.

ANSWER KEY

Rights Take Shape

GRADE 5 · 5.H.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the concern that led people to ask for protections. Then number four actions, from Madison's draft to the states' approval, in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did some people ask for a written list of rights as states considered the Constitution?	**They worried that the new national government might gain too much power and wanted protections for individual freedoms.**
2	How did Madison turn people's calls for rights into a draft Congress could use?	**He studied suggestions from the states and wrote proposed amendments in 1789.**
3	What did Congress do with Madison's proposals before sending them to the states?	**Congress debated and revised the proposals, then sent twelve proposed amendments to the states.**
4	How did the number of amendments sent to the states compare with the number that became the Bill of Rights in 1791?	**Congress sent twelve proposed amendments, but states approved ten that became the Bill of Rights.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When states considered the Constitution, some people feared the new national government would have too much power. In 1789, James Madison studied state suggestions and wrote proposed amendments to protect people's rights. Congress revised his proposals and sent twelve amendments to the states for approval. By 1791, enough states had approved ten, creating the Bill of Rights, which protects freedom of speech.

For the marking job, accept the concern about government power and these four actions in order: Madison wrote proposals, Congress revised them, Congress sent twelve to the states, and the states approved ten. For the museum label, accept other accurate examples of protected rights.