Rights in Action

Connect colonial problems to protections we use today

5.C.6.2 "Summarize the rights and liberties protected by the Bill of Rights. Draw connections to colonial conditions which prompted the adoption of particular amendments. Identify contemporary examples of rights, liberties..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the colonial problem about searching homes and circle the protection that answers it. Put a 1 beside the colonial problem about housing soldiers and a 1 beside the protection that answers it.

Why These Rights Matter

1. In colonial times, British officers sometimes used broad search orders to enter homes and look for goods without naming a particular place or item. British laws also required colonists to provide places for soldiers to stay, even when colonists objected. Families worried that their own homes might be used. These problems made Americans ask: How can written rules keep government power in check?

2. The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, sets limits on federal power and protects people's rights. The Third Amendment generally bars soldiers from staying in a person's home during peacetime without the owner's permission. The Fourth Amendment protects people from unreasonable searches and requires search warrants to meet strict rules. The First Amendment protects freedoms of speech and religion. Each protection sets a boundary the government must respect.

3. Today, a person may write a letter criticizing a city rule because speech is protected. Police generally need a valid warrant to search a home, though exceptions exist. If someone is charged with a crime, the Fifth Amendment protects due process, meaning fair legal steps before the government takes away liberty. The Sixth Amendment gives the accused the right to a lawyer in a criminal case.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which colonial problem helps explain the Third Amendment? How does the amendment address it?

2. Which colonial problem helps explain the Fourth Amendment? How does the amendment address it?

3. Why is writing a letter that criticizes a city rule an example of a right protected by the Bill of Rights?

4. If a person is charged with a crime, which two protections in the passage could help that person? Name the amendments.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a present-day situation at a school or in your community that involves a freedom or legal protection from the passage, but is different from its examples. In three sentences, describe what happens, name the amendment and protection, and explain why that protection matters.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Action

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the colonial problem about searching homes and circle the protection that answers it. Put a 1 beside the colonial problem about housing soldiers and a 1 beside the protection that answers it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which colonial problem helps explain the Third Amendment? How does the amendment address it?	**Colonists were required to provide places for British soldiers to stay. The Third Amendment generally prevents soldiers from staying in a person's home during peacetime without the owner's permission.**
2	Which colonial problem helps explain the Fourth Amendment? How does the amendment address it?	**Officers used broad orders to search colonists' homes. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and sets strict rules for warrants.**
3	Why is writing a letter that criticizes a city rule an example of a right protected by the Bill of Rights?	**The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, including expressing criticism of a government rule.**
4	If a person is charged with a crime, which two protections in the passage could help that person? Name the amendments.	**The Fifth Amendment protects due process, or fair legal steps before the government takes away liberty. The Sixth Amendment gives the accused the right to a lawyer in a criminal case.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a public school, Maya quietly prays before eating lunch. The First Amendment protects her freedom to practice her religion on her own. This protection matters because the government cannot forbid her peaceful personal prayer.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the rights and colonial conditions. For Part 3, accept a different plausible situation if the amendment and its protection match.