

Complaints to Protections

Trace colonial grievances from the Declaration to later safeguards.

8.15.C “identify colonial grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence and explain how those grievances were addressed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each colonial grievance, circle each related Constitution or Bill of Rights protection, and write matching numbers beside each pair.

From Grievance to Safeguard

- ① In 1776, the Declaration of Independence argued that King George III had violated colonists' rights. It said he kept standing armies in the colonies during peacetime, housed soldiers among civilians, and made the military independent of civilian authority. The declaration also criticized taxation without colonists' consent, the closing of colonial legislatures, and the denial of jury trials. These were not simply complaints about inconvenience. The writers presented them as evidence that government had failed to protect people's liberties and had ruled without their meaningful participation.
- ② When delegates wrote the Constitution in 1787, they tried to prevent several abuses named in the declaration. Article I gives lawmaking power to Congress, whose members are elected. The House of Representatives, closest to voters, must begin bills that raise revenue. This arrangement answered the complaint about taxes imposed without consent. The Constitution also separates military and civilian power by making the president commander in chief while Congress controls funding for the armed forces. Article III requires jury trials for federal crimes, except impeachment cases. It also created federal courts.
- ③ The Bill of Rights added clearer limits in 1791. The Third Amendment restricts quartering soldiers in private homes during peacetime, responding to a major colonial fear. The Fourth Amendment protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures, a safeguard against intrusive searches by officials. The Sixth Amendment promises a speedy, public trial by an impartial jury in criminal cases and requires notice of the accusation. The First Amendment protects the right to petition the government, so citizens can formally ask leaders to correct problems instead of being ignored.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two grievances in the first paragraph involved colonists having a voice in government?

2 How did the Constitution address the grievance about taxes imposed without consent?

3 What two constitutional powers helped prevent the military from operating independently of civilian government?

4 Which amendment addressed the denial of jury trials, and what protections does it provide in criminal cases?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one grievance from the passage about quartering soldiers, unreasonable searches, or ignored petitions. In exactly three sentences, identify the grievance, name the amendment that addresses it, and explain how the amendment protects people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each colonial grievance, circle each related Constitution or Bill of Rights protection, and write matching numbers beside each pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two grievances in the first paragraph involved colonists having a voice in government?	Taxation without colonists' consent and the closing of colonial legislatures.
2	How did the Constitution address the grievance about taxes imposed without consent?	It required the elected House of Representatives to begin revenue bills, giving representatives close to voters a role in taxation.
3	What two constitutional powers helped prevent the military from operating independently of civilian government?	The president is commander in chief, while Congress controls funding for the armed forces.
4	Which amendment addressed the denial of jury trials, and what protections does it provide in criminal cases?	The Sixth Amendment. It provides a speedy, public trial by an impartial jury and requires notice of the accusation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Colonists feared that soldiers could be housed in private homes during peacetime. The Third Amendment restricts quartering soldiers in private homes during peacetime. This limit protects civilians' homes from military use without their agreement.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately connects each grievance to its constitutional or Bill of Rights safeguard. For Part 3, accept any of the three listed grievance-amendment pairings if the explanation clearly states how the right limits government power.