

Rights Worth Keeping

Read about how citizens support freedom and fairness.

3.1.c “understanding the importance of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions a person can take to support or defend these documents. Circle two freedoms or rights named in the passage.

Keeping Our Rights Strong

- ① The Constitution is the main set of rules for the United States government. It explains how the government is organized and what it may do. The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments, or changes, to the Constitution. These amendments protect important freedoms. For example, people may speak freely, practice a religion, and gather peacefully.
- ② Supporting the Constitution and the Bill of Rights means treating these rules and freedoms with respect. A citizen can learn about them, follow laws, and use rights in safe, peaceful ways. Defending them means speaking up when a government rule treats people unfairly or takes away a protected freedom. People can share their concerns, vote when they are adults, or work peacefully for change.
- ③ These documents matter because they help protect everyone from unfair government power. Rights also come with responsibilities. You should respect other people's rights, even when their ideas differ from yours. You can help defend these documents by listening to others, solving disagreements peacefully, and telling a trusted adult if you think a rule is unfair. Doing these things helps keep freedom and fairness strong.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the Bill of Rights?

2 According to the passage, what does it mean to defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

3 Name two peaceful actions people can take to support or defend these documents.

4 Why should you respect other people's rights when their ideas differ from yours?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about how you would support or defend a freedom at school or in your community. Name the freedom, describe a problem, and tell one peaceful action you would take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three actions a person can take to support or defend these documents. Circle two freedoms or rights named in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the Bill of Rights?	It is the first ten amendments, or changes, to the Constitution.
2	According to the passage, what does it mean to defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?	It means speaking up when a government rule treats people unfairly or takes away a protected freedom.
3	Name two peaceful actions people can take to support or defend these documents.	Answers may include learning about them, following laws, sharing concerns, voting as an adult, working peacefully for change, listening to others, solving disagreements peacefully, or telling a trusted adult about an unfair rule.
4	Why should you respect other people's rights when their ideas differ from yours?	Rights come with responsibilities, and respecting others' rights helps keep freedom and fairness strong.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would support the freedom to practice religion. If someone was teased for wearing a religious item, I would be concerned about fairness. I would ask a trusted adult to help stop the teasing.

Accept reasonable responses that identify a freedom, describe a relevant fairness problem, and give a peaceful, respectful action. Students may use any action supported by the passage.