Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Bill of Rights**

*Read the text of the Bill of Rights below. Then answer the questions that follow.*

**Primary Source Tip:** Reading legal documents can be difficult. There are some words that are unclear. Read each part of the sentence carefully. If you find words you do not know, look them up.

**The Bill of Rights  
from the United States Constitution**

**Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment II**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment III**

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

**Amendment VII**

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

# Analyzing the Bill of Rights

The United States won its independence from Great Britain in 1783. In 1787 the loosely-joined states of the new nation established the United States Constitution, a framework for a new government. The Constitution created a new federal government with three branches, defined the relationships between the branches, and built in a process to change the government and the Constitution without having to create a whole new one. Additions or changes to the Constitution are known as amendments. The Bill of Rights, written in 1791, became the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.

*Read the text of the Bill of Rights. Use the text to help you answer the questions below.*

**Write True or False on the line next to each question.**

**1.** Congress can pass laws creating a single, official religion. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**2.** A person accused of a crime has the right to a speedy trial.   http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**3.** People accused of crimes can face their accusers and call witnesses to testify for them. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**4.** A person can be arrested and put on trial for the same crime twice. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**5.** The police can search any home, at any time, if there is probable cause. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**6.** Congress cannot pass laws to prevent people from meeting and protesting the government. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**Read each description. Write the correct amendment on the line next to each sentence.**

**7.** This amendment protects freedom of speech. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**8.** This amendment protects people from cruel and unusual punishment. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**9.** The right to bear arms is protected by this amendment.  http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif

**10.** This amendment prevents soldiers from seizing your home. http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/graphics/wol.gif