

## The Bill of Rights-Simplified Version

Amendment One guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom for people to get together peacefully, and freedom for people to send petitions to their government.

Amendment Two states that in order to have a prepared military, people are guaranteed the right to keep and bear arms.

Amendment Three states that the government cannot force people to house and feed soldiers in their homes during times of peace.

Amendment Four states that people, their homes or their belongings are protected from unreasonable searches or seizures.

Amendment Five guarantees a person accused of a serious crime the right to be charged by a grand jury. It also states that people cannot be forced to give evidence against themselves. If a person is found not guilty of a crime, he/she cannot be put on trial for the same crime again. Finally, the federal government cannot unfairly take peoples' lives, freedom, or property.

Amendment Six guarantees a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury if a person is accused of a crime. The accused person also has the right to be told what they are accused of and they have the right to a lawyer. They also have the right to see and to question those people who have accused them of the crime.

Amendment Seven guarantees a trial by jury in civil cases which are cases that involve a dispute between private parties or between the government and a private party.

Amendment Eight says that courts cannot use cruel or unusual punishment or set bail and fines that are too high.

Amendment Nine states that the people have other rights that are not stated here.

Amendment Ten states that the people have all the rights not given to the United States government or forbidden to state governments by the U.S. Constitution.

### Bill of Rights Reference Sheet

AMEND- MENT	RIGHTS
1	freedom of religion freedom of speech freedom of the press freedom of assembly freedom of petition
2	right to carry arms, or weapons
3	don't have to give food or your home to soldiers during peace times
4	government cannot search property without good reason
5 - 8	Due process of law which means: right to a fair, public trial a person does not have to speak against himself/herself in a trial right to a lawyer to speak for them cannot be put on trial twice for the same crime cannot be given cruel or unusual punishment
9	People have rights that are not listed in detail in the Constitution.
10	As a final protection, the federal government can do only those things listed in the Constitution. All other authority belongs to the states or to the people.

## Scenarios

### #1

The Town Council of the city of Mapleton recently closed a popular park along a river. The Council claimed the town did not have enough money to maintain the park. Many people in the town of Mapleton were angry about the Town Council's decision. They held a rally in the park and held up signs saying "The Town Council Stinks!" and "The Town Council is a Bunch of Losers." The mayor of Mapleton had the police arrest anybody carrying a sign.

How would the Bill of Rights have protected the people of Mapleton who held the rally? \_\_\_\_\_

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### #2

Herbert Jones, a policeman, was very angry when he noticed two large front windows of his house were cracked. He asked Mrs. Smith, his neighbor, if she had seen what happened. Mrs. Smith replied that she thought Ruby Walton, a teenager from down the street, had done the damage. According to Mrs. Smith, Ruby owned a sling shot and had once remarked that she did not like policemen. After hearing this Herbert Jones went to Ruby's house and demanded to look for the slingshot. He found it in her bedroom with several small rocks. He arrested Ruby.

How would the Bill of Rights have protected Ruby Walton? \_\_\_\_\_

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## #3

Ramsay Ricket was one of the meanest people in Bloomville. He insulted people, made faces at people, and did everything he could to make people miserable. He was caught throwing eggs at a school on Halloween. Several witnesses saw him. The eggs did a lot of damage including breaking four windows and staining a large sign on the front of the school. He was arrested right after the incident. The mayor announced that since there were so many witnesses there was no need for a trial. He also stated that a trial would cost Bloomville money and Ramsay Ricket didn't deserve to have any money spent on him.

How would the Bill of Rights have protected Ramsey Ricket? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Limiting the Government of Egbonia

The small country of Egbonia is governed by a President and a Council. According to the Egbonian Constitution, the Council is made up of the ten richest people in Egbonia. The President is chosen by the Council. The Constitution allows the President to make and enforce all the laws. The main roles of the Council are to choose the President and give him ideas for new laws.

According to the Constitution, a huge birthday party is held for the President each year. This year the President wanted it to be bigger than ever. Therefore, he wrote a new law requiring every citizen of Egbonia to donate five hundred dollars for the party plus a birthday cake.