

The Bill of Rights and Other Amendments

The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution in 1787.

They wanted a “living document.” This means the Constitution can change with the country.

A change to the Constitution is called an amendment.

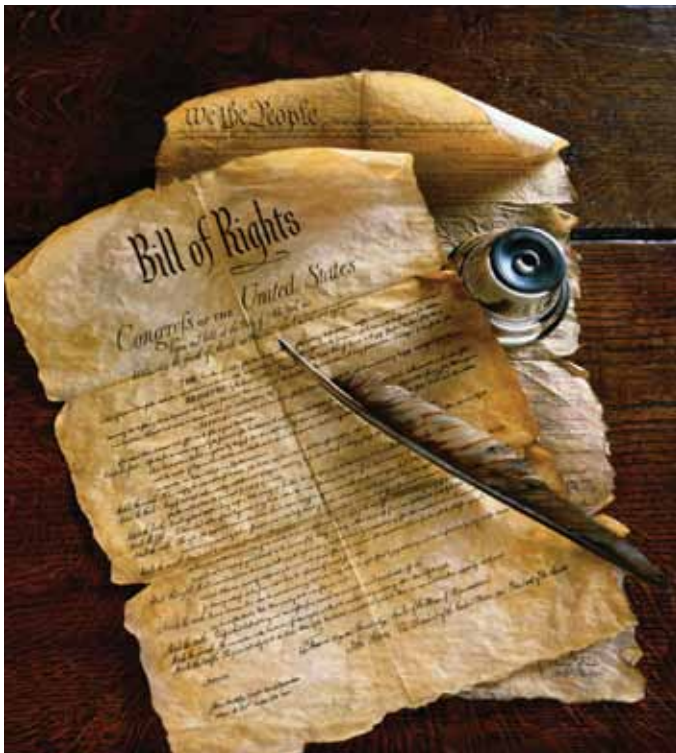
In 1791, a list of ten amendments was added.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights talks about individual rights.

Over the years, more amendments were added.

Now, the Constitution has 27 amendments.



New Words

rights = _____

amendment = _____

Bill of Rights = _____

individual = _____

The First Amendment

The First Amendment is in the Bill of Rights.

Americans often talk about the First Amendment.

The First Amendment protects individual rights or freedoms.

These rights are for everyone living in the United States.

The rights or freedoms from the First Amendment are:

Freedom of Religion—You can practice any religion or you can practice no religion.

Freedom of Speech—You can say what you want about public problems.

Freedom of Assembly—You can meet peacefully to talk about problems and ideas.

Freedom of the Press—The government cannot control what people write in newspapers and the media.

Freedom to Petition the Government—You can ask the government to change laws.

*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy speaking at a racial equality demonstration outside the Justice Department on June 14, 1963.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-04295.*



Word Search—The First Amendment

Find these words in the puzzle.
The words are down (↓) or across (→).
Circle the words.



Woolworth employees in Detroit, Michigan, on strike in 1937.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
LC-USZ62-124545.

Word Bank

- ✓ SPEECH FIRST RELIGION
- CHANGE WRITE AMENDMENT
- PETITION PRESS RIGHT
- SAY LAWS MEET

A	P	B	S	P	E	E	C	H	D
M	E	E	T	R	G	Q	K	I	A
E	T	F	R	E	C	D	O	N	Z
N	I	J	E	S	A	Y	Z	B	Q
D	T	Y	L	S	W	R	I	T	E
M	I	F	I	R	S	T	V	L	M
E	O	U	G	N	Q	X	L	A	B
N	N	R	I	G	H	T	P	W	I
T	L	W	O	T	N	C	T	S	Y
C	H	A	N	G	E	J	H	M	W

Four Amendments on Voting

The original Constitution did not say who could vote.

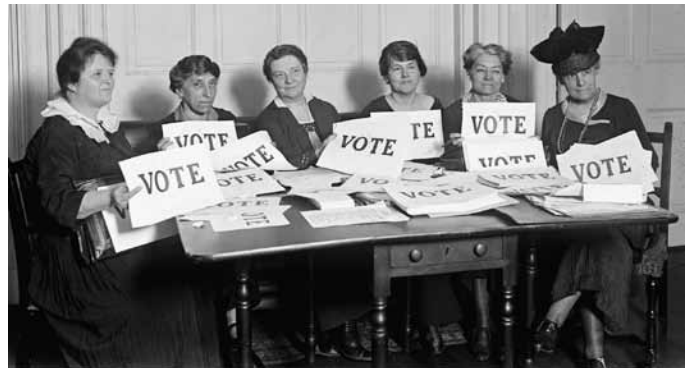
Over the years, amendments were added to the Constitution about voting rights.

There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.

- A male citizen of any race can vote.
- Any citizen can vote. Women and men can vote.
- You don't have to pay to vote.
- Citizens 18 and older can vote.

Today, every U.S. citizen 18 and older has the right to vote.

Voting in a federal election is one right only for U.S. citizens.



*National League of Women Voters in 1924.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-npcc-12394.*

*A young woman voting in the 1964
presidential election in Washington, D.C.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
LC-DIG-ppmsca-04300.*

Correct the Sentence—Amendments

Read the sentence.

Find the mistake.

Write the sentence correctly.

1. There are six amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.

2. Freedom of religion means you cannot practice any religion.

3. Every U.S. citizen 21 and older can vote.

4. Going to university is one right only for U.S. citizens.

5. The first ten amendments are called the Declaration of Independence.

6. An amendment is an introduction to the Constitution.

7. The Constitution has 31 amendments.

Amendment

Copy the word.

amendment

a _____

am _____

ame _____

amen _____

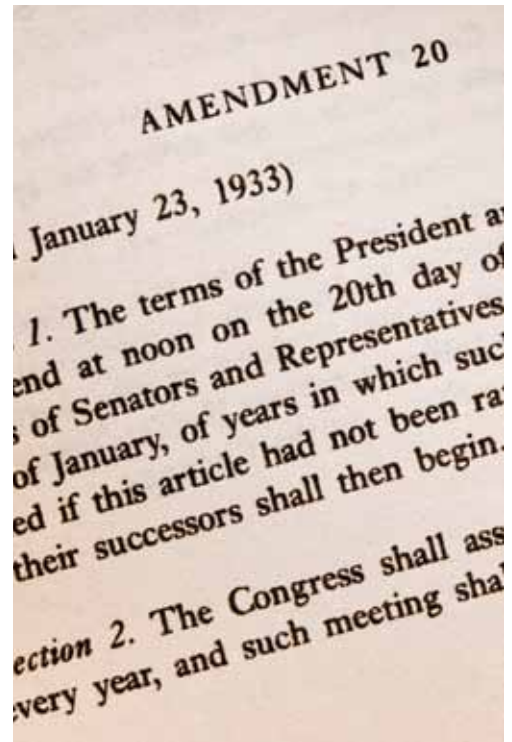
amend _____

amendm _____

amendme _____

amendmen _____

amendment _____



The 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

Copy the Civics Test question and answer.

What is an amendment? A change to the Constitution.

W_____ is an amend_____? A change _____ the Constitution.

_____ an _____? A ch_____ the Con_____.