

## BILL OF RIGHTS – OUR TOWN, USA

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Understand the principles of the Bill of Rights and the importance of its commemoration.
2. Analyze and evaluate the importance of each amendment
3. Apply understanding to everyday situations by making inferences

TEKS: SS 3.10A, 17C, 4.21 B&C; 5.20A; LA 3.5A, Figure 19 D  
4<sup>th</sup> – Figure 19 D&F; 5.11E, Figure 19 D&F

Materials Needed: copies of simplified Bill of Rights (attached), “Bill of Rights – Our Town, USA” (attached), Bill of Rights Day poster (attached), Resolution 211 (attached)

Vocabulary: rights, scenarios, proclamation, rank

Teaching Strategy:

1. Remind students that December 15 is Bill of Rights Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights in 1791. Display the poster recognizing Bill of Rights Day. What does the slogan, “All of the Bill of Rights for All Citizens” mean?
2. Discuss why it is important to commemorate this day by reading the Proclamation 211 from Rainier, Washington. Compare this celebration to July 4<sup>th</sup>.
3. Make copies of the simplified U.S. Bill of Rights and cut them into strips. Distribute a set to each student. Discuss the meaning of each amendment. Then ask students to put them in rank order of importance. Canvas the class to discover which amendment ranked first and last.
4. Assign each student a partner. Students will work together to apply the Bill of Rights to everyday situations on the sheet entitled “The Bill of Rights – Our Town, USA”. At the bottom of the sheet, they will create a situation reflecting their understanding of the Bill of Rights.
5. Students will read the situation they created, asking the class to apply one of the rights to the situation.

G/T Extension:

Students will research and analyze the Children’s Bill of Rights of 1996. They may edit or add to this list, reflecting their own point of view.

Jeanne Wray, LRE consultant



**Resolution No. 211**  
**Bill of Rights Day**

We, the Council of the Town of Rainier County of Thurston, State of Washington, do solemnly proclaim the following:

Whereas,

1. The First Ten Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, know collectively as the Bill of Rights, were ratified on December 15, 1791;

2. The Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms and protects fundamental human and civil rights for which persons of all races have struggled for thousands of years;

3. To preserve the rights and freedoms secured by the Bill of Rights, our Forefathers, and hundreds of thousands of men and women serving on the police agencies and Armed Forces of the United States, have sacrificed, suffered and died;

4. The rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights deserve perennial celebrations; the sacrifices made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve eternal remembrance;

5. In the Town of Rainier there has been no regular formal observance of a special day commemorating the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Several of the original States refused to ratify the Constitution without an express Bill of Rights;

6. To commemorate the Bill of Rights with a special day would honor the fundamental rights it enshrines and the sacrifices made to create and preserve these rights, and would proclaim these rights to the citizens of the Town, to this Nation, and to the World;

Be it Therefore Resolved,

A copy of the Bill of Rights be conspicuously posted at Town Hall and provided to all citizens upon request. That December 15th of every year be designated Bill of Rights Day in the Town of Rainier,

That all government agencies be encouraged to observe the annual Bill of Rights Day in a manner that brings to mind the meaning and importance of each of the Ten Articles contained in that Bill, and

That the first annual commemoration of Bill of Rights day shall be on December 15, 1997.

This proclamation and resolution is made by a vote of the majority of the Council of the Town of Rainier, on this 9th day of September, 1997

## Bill of Rights – Our Town, USA

Read each situation and decide which of the first ten amendments (Bill of Rights) applies here. Write the number of the amendment in the blank. Some sentences will describe a right that is violated, and some will describe a right that is protected.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The National Guard has been sent to a town to clean up after a flood. The government says that everyone whose house has not been flooded must let the soldiers stay in their homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Alan wears a button that says, “The governor is a bum.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Martin’s hand is cut off for stealing a sack of groceries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sarah wants to organize a meeting of people to convince the city to clean up the trash along the streets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The government passes a law that everyone must worship the sunset.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Marty has been accused of a crime but can’t afford a lawyer. The state says he must hire his own attorney or speak for himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After a child is accidentally injured by a gun, the city proclaims that guns are dangerous and will not be allowed in homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Seth is accused of making a bomb. He is told he will stay in jail until he confesses, which he finally does.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The police are told that Amanda stole Beth’s backpack. They get a warrant and search Amanda’s house, car, and yard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The state requires all students to study Spanish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. (Your idea) \_\_\_\_\_
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# **The Bill of Rights**

<b>Amendment 1</b>	<b>Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition</b>
<b>Amendment 2</b>	<b>Right to keep guns</b>
<b>Amendment 3</b>	<b>Protection against soldiers staying in homes</b>
<b>Amendment 4</b>	<b>Right of Privacy, Freedom from unreasonable searches</b>
<b>Amendment 5</b>	<b>Protection of life, liberty, and property. Right to remain silent.</b>

**Amendment 6**

**Right to a fair trial  
with a jury, right to  
know what you're  
accused of, right to  
have an attorney**

**Amendment 7**

**Right to a jury trial  
when someone sues  
another person**

**Amendment 8**

**Fair bail and  
punishment**

**Amendment 9**

**People have more  
rights than just these**

**Amendment 10**

**The states have other  
rights**