



## IT HAS NO DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

**Student Objectives:** The students will...

1. Identify the contributions of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason whose ideas are imbedded in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.
2. Explain the formation of the Bill of Rights.
3. Understand the implications of individual participation in the democratic process.
4. Analyze the fundamental rights of American citizens as outlined in the Bill of Rights.
5. Compare and contrast the Bill of Rights with the Virginia Declaration of Rights using primary source documents.

**TEKS:** 5.3A, 5.14C, 5.17A, 5.19A

**Materials Needed:** Copies of the Bill of Rights and Virginia Declaration of Rights from ([www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html)), It Has No Declaration of Rights PowerPoint presentation, copies of Venn diagram.

**Vocabulary:** amendment, rights, compare/contrast

**Teaching Strategies:**

1. Introduce lesson by reviewing the lives and accomplishments of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason using the PowerPoint presentation.
2. Students will notice the similarities in the documents written by each—the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the US Bill of Rights.
3. Distribute copies of the Bill of Rights (<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>)
4. Explain that an amendment is a revision—that some of the Founders, including Mason, insisted on the addition of a Bill of Rights to the Constitution. Read through each amendment
5. Assign each student a partner to work with.
6. Each pair of students will restate each of the 10 amendments in simplified form, while maintaining the meaning.
7. Each pair of students will then get with another pair to form a group of four. They will compare the rewrites made and come up with a compromise list.
8. Allow each group to read their revised list and create a compilation of all lists as the class list of the rights listed in the Bill of Rights
9. Explain to students that the Bill of Rights was similar to (and perhaps inspired by) the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason.
10. Distribute copies of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>)
11. In their groups of four, students will compare/contrast the two documents by creating a Venn diagram, showing the main points of each.
12. Assign each group one of the following questions to discuss:
  - a. Why was it so important to George Mason to have a list of rights added to the Constitution?
  - b. What would you have added to the Bill of Rights? Left out?
  - c. What is the most important of the Bill of Rights? Least important?
  - d. If the Bill of Rights were written today, how would the list be different?

- e. There were originally 12 amendments proposed in the Bill of Rights. Read the other two (attached). Why do you think they did not pass?
13. Discuss these questions with the whole class to get their perspective of the Bill of Rights and the importance today.

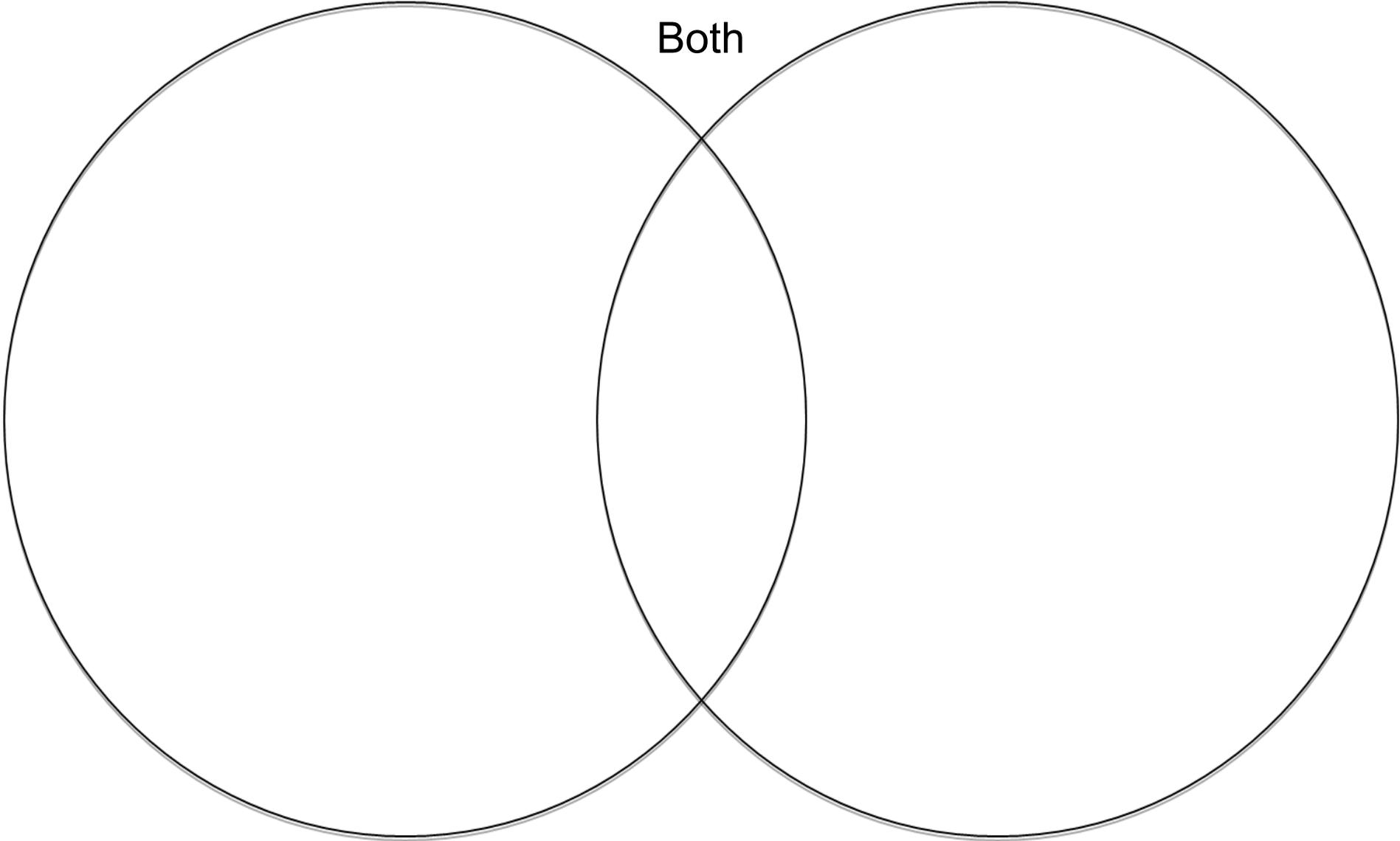
**Extension for Gifted/Talented:**

Students will research Amendment 27, which originally did not pass. Ben Franklin suggested that Congress should not be paid at all, but that didn't pass. Find out what the pay has been for Congress over the years and compare it to what CEO's of large businesses make today.

Virginia Declaration of Rights

Bill of Rights

Both



## Two Amendments that didn't make it

*"After the first enumeration required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons."*

So at first 1 – 30,000 people until they had 100 representatives

Then 1- 40,000 people until they had 200 representatives

Then 1-50,000 people

If this had been ratified, we would have 6,000 members of Congress.

*"No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."* Proposed by Madison

If Congress votes a pay raise for itself, there has to be an election of those members of Congress before the pay raise takes effect.

# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

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