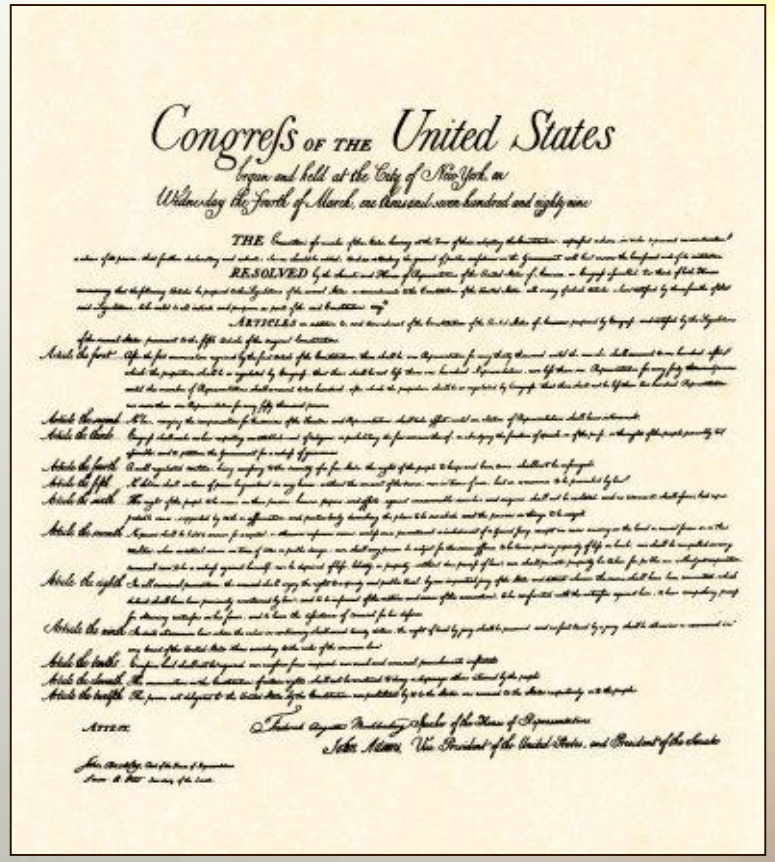
The Bill of Rights

The First 10 Amendments to the Constitution

- Take notes on the slides as they appear.


Congress of the United States
begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

THE Convention of several States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added, and as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government will best secure the beneficent ends of its institution

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution, viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by the Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth article of the original Constitution.

Article the first. 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 be not less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons.

Article the second. No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Article the third. 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.

Article the fourth. 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.

Article the fifth. 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.

Article the sixth. The right of the people of the several States, 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.

Article the seventh. Congress shall have power to provide, by law, for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States. The militia of the several States, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Congress, so far as the same may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

Article the eighth. No person shall 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.

Article the ninth. 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 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.

Article the tenth. 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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

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

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

Article the twelfth. 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.

ATTEST: Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Speaker of the House of Representatives.
John Adams, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives.
Sam. A. Otis, Secretary of the Senate.

1st Amendment

- The 1st Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and petition.

- This means that we all have the right to:
- practice any religion we want to
- to speak freely
- to assemble (meet)
- to address the government (petition)
- to publish newspapers, TV, radio, Internet (press)

2nd Amendment

- The 2nd Amendment protects the right to bear arms, which means the right to own a gun.

3rd Amendment

- The 3rd Amendment says “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.”
- This means that we cannot be forced to house or quarter soldiers.

4th Amendment

- The 4th Amendment protects the people from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- This means that the police must have a warrant to enter our homes. It also means the government cannot take our property, papers, or us, without a valid warrant based on probable cause (good reason).

5th Amendment

- The 5th Amendment protects people from being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted, (accused)
- You may not be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)
- You don't have to testify against yourself in court. (Self-incrimination)

6th Amendment

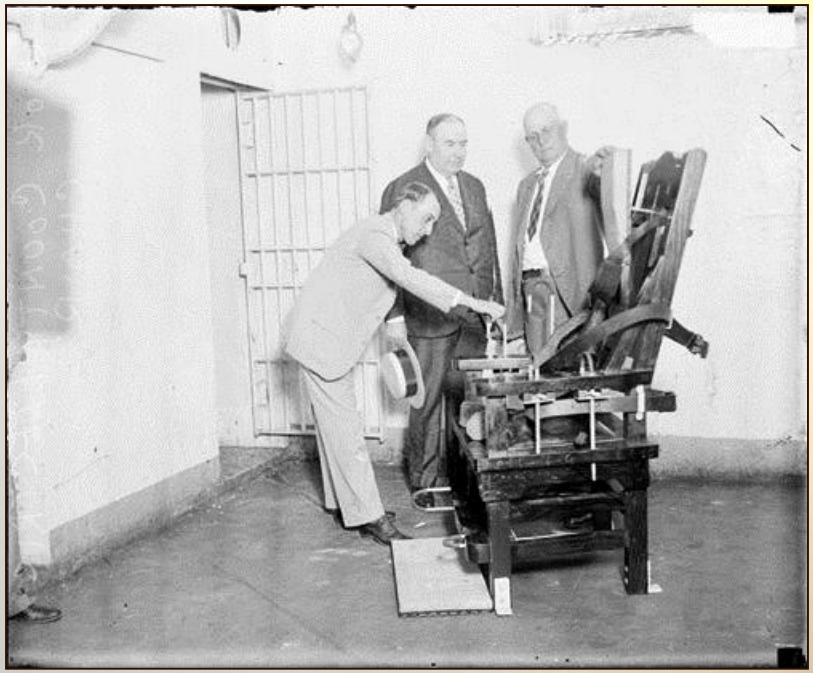
- The 6th Amendment guarantees a speedy trial (you can't be kept in jail for over a year without a trial)
- an impartial jury (doesn't already think you are guilty)
- that the accused can confront witnesses against them
- the accused must be allowed to have a lawyer

7th Amendment

- The 7th Amendment guarantees the right to a speedy civil trial.
- A civil trial differs from a criminal trial. A civil trial is when someone sues someone else. A criminal trial is when the state tries to convict someone of a crime.

8th Amendment

- The 8th Amendment guarantees that punishments will be fair and not cruel, and that extraordinarily large fines will not be set.



9th Amendment

- All rights not stated in the Constitution and not forbidden by the Constitution belong to the people.
- This means that the states can do what they want if the Constitution does not forbid it.

10th Amendment

- The 10th Amendment states that any power not granted to the federal government belongs to the states or to the people.

13th Amendment

- The 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery in the united States

14th Amendment

- The 14th Amendment made all slaves Citizens of the United States

15th Amendment

- The 15th Amendment prohibits any government from denying the right to vote to a citizen.