

Constitution USA: Rights

Ask Americans what the Constitution's most important feature is, and most will say it's the guarantees of liberty enshrined in the Bill of Rights. In this episode, we will explore the history of the Bill of Rights, as well as several stories ripped from the headlines, involving freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and right to privacy. Let's take a closer look and see how freedom is defined for "We the People," as well as you the citizen.

It's a Free Country: Know Your Rights!

1. What does the Constitution establish?
2. What does the Bill of Rights establish?
3. What does each amendment protect? Fill in the chart below.

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Protesting Funerals: The First Amendment Put to the Test

4. Is all speech protected? Should offensive speech be protected? Support your answer.
5. Why would someone want speech to be limited? Why would someone want speech to always be free?

Right to Fair Trial

6. Who insures our rights are protected? What did Gideon do to make sure the 6th amendment was protecting him?
7. Why would someone need a lawyer? What is the responsibility of a court-appointed attorney?

Battles of School Prayer

8. Why would some students be uncomfortable with a banner? Why might some students object to taking down such a banner?

9. Does prayer have a place in public school? Support your answer.

Eminent Domain Case: How Can You Take My House?

10. Define “eminent domain.”

11. What reason did the government can take away property of citizens? What part of the Constitution gives the government the right to do this?

12. Who was supposed to benefit from taking the land? In this case, did the Constitution protect the majority or the minority?

Rights are Changing?

13. How has our understanding of our rights changed over time?

14. Why does it seem like the definitions to these rights change over time?

Privacy

15. When and where can you be searched without a warrant?

16. Do you believe, like the people at Twitter, that what you tweet is private? Do we have a reasonable expectation of privacy online?

17. How do you think technology is putting cracks in the Bill of Rights?