

Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s

Topic 3 Content: Bill of Rights Notes

Introduction



In an attempt to alleviate some of the concerns of the anti-federalists, Virginian and Federalist James Madison drafted the Bill of Rights. This document explicitly protected the rights of the individual and reserved some power at the state level. The Bill of Rights was passed by Congress in 1789 and ratified by the state legislatures in 1791. Click **Start** to begin.

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Amendments 1-5

Bill of Rights

Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore the first five amendments of the Bill of Rights.

- Amendment 1**
- Amendment 2**
- Amendment 3**
- Amendment 4**
- Amendment 5**

Amendments 6-10 >

The image shows a digital interface with a light gray background featuring a faint historical illustration of a group of people. On the left, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains the text 'Bill of Rights'. Below it, a larger light gray area contains the instruction 'Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore the first five amendments of the Bill of Rights.' To the right, a dark blue vertical bar contains a list of five amendments, each in white text. At the bottom right of this bar, the text 'Amendments 6-10' is followed by a white right-pointing arrow inside a dark blue circle.

In this interactivity, explore the connections between the Bill of Rights and Virginia government documents. Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore the first five amendments of the Bill of Rights.


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Amendment 1

Amendment 1

Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly

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**.

 **Question**

Amendment 1
Amendment 2
Amendment 3
Amendment 4
Amendment 5

Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly

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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 1

Question
Think for a moment, how was the First Amendment influenced by the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?

Answer
The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom protected the right of Virginia citizens to freely choose their religion. The First Amendment guaranteed this freedom for all American citizens.

X

Think for a moment, how was the First Amendment influenced by the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom protected the right of Virginia citizens to freely choose their religion. The First Amendment guaranteed this freedom for all American citizens. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.


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Amendment 2

Amendment 2

Right to bear arms

A well regulated **Militia**, being necessary for **the security** of a free State, the **right of the people** to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

 **Question**

Amendment 1
Amendment 2
Amendment 3
Amendment 4
Amendment 5

Right to bear arms

A well regulated Militia, being necessary for the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 2

Question
How do you think the Virginia Declaration of Rights inspired the inclusion of the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights?

Answer
The Virginia Declaration of Rights discussed individual's natural rights to live freely and own property. Protecting individuals' right to bear arms guarantees that a regulated militia has the power to protect these natural rights.

X

How do you think the Virginia Declaration of Rights inspired the inclusion of the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights?

The Virginia Declaration of Rights discussed individual's natural rights to live freely and own property. Protecting individuals' right to bear arms guarantees that a regulated militia has the power to protect these natural rights. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.


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Amendment 3

Amendment 3

Quartering of soldiers

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.

 **Question**

Amendment 1
Amendment 2
Amendment 3
Amendment 4
Amendment 5

Quartering of soldiers

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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 3

Question
Think for a moment, how does the Third Amendment protect individuals' natural right to live freely?

Answer
Government is prohibited from requiring citizens to house military troops, allowing them to continue to live freely and comfortably in their private homes.

X

Think for a moment, how does the Third Amendment protect individuals' natural right to live freely?

Government is prohibited from requiring citizens to house military troops, allowing them to continue to live freely and comfortably in their private homes. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Amendment 4

Amendment 4

Search and arrest

The right of the people 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.



Question

Amendment 1

Amendment 2

Amendment 3

Amendment 4

Amendment 5

Search and arrest

The right of the people 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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 4

Question

Which Virginia documents do you think had the greater influence on the Fourth Amendment, the Virginia Declaration of Rights or the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?

Answer

The Fourth Amendment prohibits government from unreasonably infringing upon individuals and their property. The Virginia Declaration of Rights most likely had the greater influence on the inclusion of this amendment in the Bill of Rights.

X

Which Virginia documents do you think had the greater influence on the Fourth Amendment, the Virginia Declaration of Rights or the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?

The Fourth Amendment prohibits government from unreasonably infringing upon individuals and their property. The Virginia Declaration of Rights most likely had the greater influence on the inclusion of this amendment in the Bill of Rights. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.


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Amendment 5

Amendment 5

Rights in criminal cases

nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

 **Question**

Amendment 1
Amendment 2
Amendment 3
Amendment 4
Amendment 5

Amendments 6-10 >

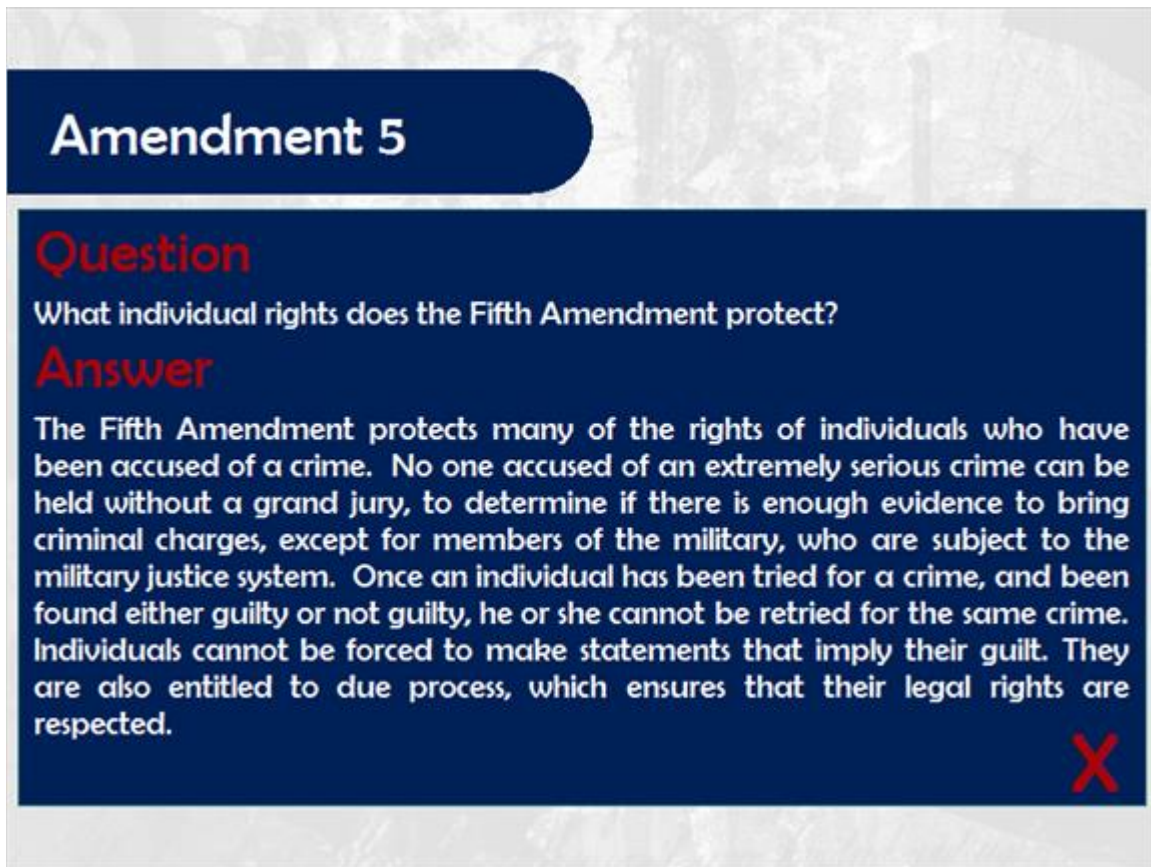
Rights in criminal cases

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person 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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question



Amendment 5

Question

What individual rights does the Fifth Amendment protect?

Answer

The Fifth Amendment protects many of the rights of individuals who have been accused of a crime. No one accused of an extremely serious crime can be held without a grand jury, to determine if there is enough evidence to bring criminal charges, except for members of the military, who are subject to the military justice system. Once an individual has been tried for a crime, and been found either guilty or not guilty, he or she cannot be retried for the same crime. Individuals cannot be forced to make statements that imply their guilt. They are also entitled to due process, which ensures that their legal rights are respected.

What individual rights does the Fifth Amendment protect?

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Introduction - Amendments 6 – 10

Bill of Rights

Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore the remaining amendments of the Bill of Rights.

- Amendment 6**
- Amendment 7**
- Amendment 8**
- Amendment 9**
- Amendment 10**

Additional Amendments >

Make a selection from the menu on the right to explore the remaining amendments of the Bill of Rights.


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Amendment 6

Amendment 6

Right to a fair trial
and to have the assistance of
counsel for his defense.

Amendment 6
Amendment 7
Amendment 8
Amendment 9
Amendment 10

 **Question**

Right to a fair trial

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 to 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 defense. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 6

Question
The Sixth Amendment guarantees that individuals accused of a crime have the right to a speedy and public trial, by an unbiased jury. If the rights of the accused were not legally protected by the Sixth Amendment, what possible outcomes could result?

Answer
Failing to protect the rights of the accused could result in the government's abuse of power.

X

The Sixth Amendment guarantees that individuals accused of a crime have the right to a speedy and public trial, by an unbiased jury. If the rights of the accused were not legally protected by the Sixth Amendment, what possible outcomes could result?

Failing to protect the rights of the accused could result in the government's abuse of power. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Amendment 7

Amendment 7

Rights in civil cases

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.



Question

Amendment 6

Amendment 7

Amendment 8

Amendment 9

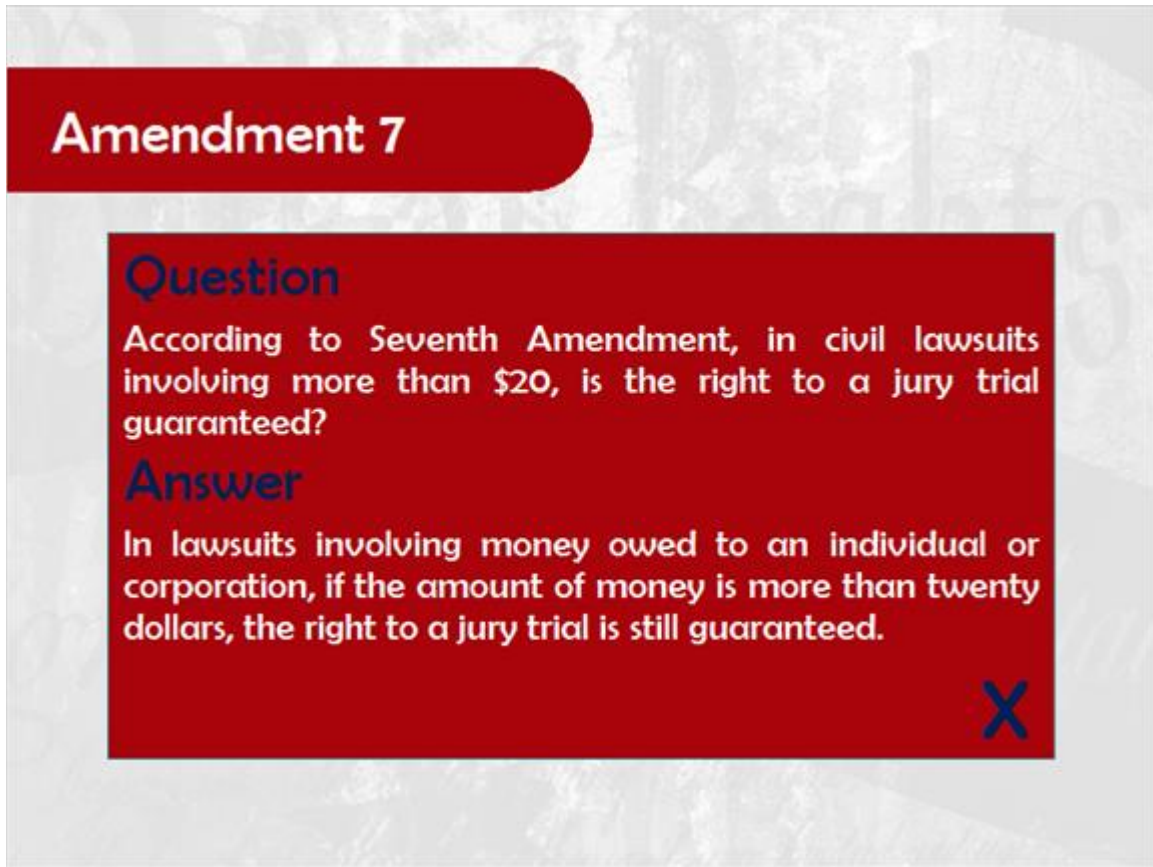
Amendment 10

Rights in civil cases

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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

A screenshot of an interactive learning module. At the top, a red rounded rectangle contains the text "Amendment 7" in white. Below this, a red rectangular box contains the text "Question" in blue, followed by "According to Seventh Amendment, in civil lawsuits involving more than \$20, is the right to a jury trial guaranteed?" in white. Underneath, the text "Answer" is in blue, followed by "In lawsuits involving money owed to an individual or corporation, if the amount of money is more than twenty dollars, the right to a jury trial is still guaranteed." in white. A blue "X" icon is located in the bottom right corner of the red box. The background of the entire slide is a light gray with a faint, repeating pattern of the words "Bill of Rights".

According to Seventh Amendment, in civil lawsuits involving more than \$20, is the right to a jury trial guaranteed?

In lawsuits involving money owed to an individual or corporation, if the amount of money is more than twenty dollars, the right to a jury trial is still guaranteed. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Amendment 8

Amendment 8

Bail, fines, punishment

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



Question

Amendment 6

Amendment 7

Amendment 8

Amendment 9

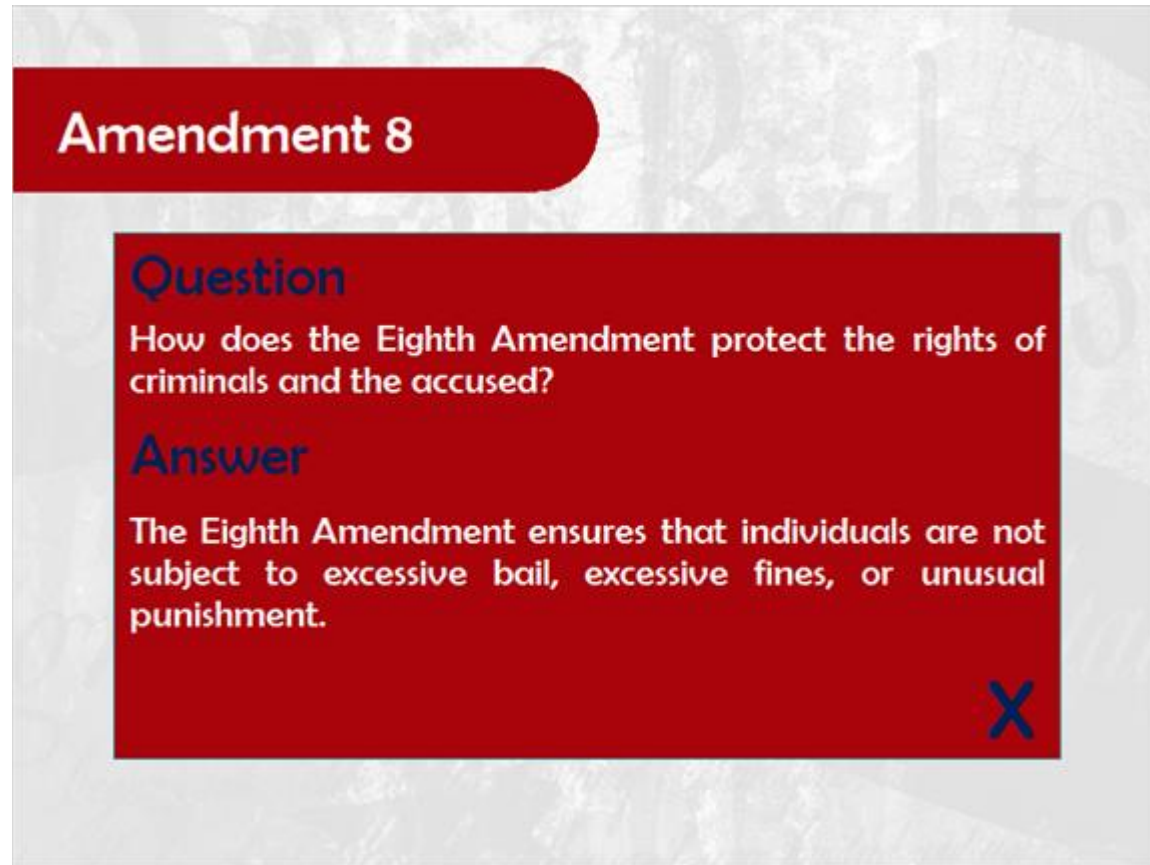
Amendment 10

Bail, fines, punishment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

A screenshot of an interactive learning module. At the top, a red rounded rectangle contains the text "Amendment 8" in white. Below this, a red rectangular box contains the text "Question" in blue, followed by "How does the Eighth Amendment protect the rights of criminals and the accused?" in white. Underneath, the text "Answer" is in blue, followed by "The Eighth Amendment ensures that individuals are not subject to excessive bail, excessive fines, or unusual punishment." in white. A blue "X" icon is located in the bottom right corner of the red box. The background of the entire slide is a light gray with a faint, repeating pattern of the words "Bill of Rights" in a serif font.

How does the Eighth Amendment protect the rights of criminals and the accused?

The Eighth Amendment ensures that individuals are not subject to excessive bail, excessive fines, or unusual punishment. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Amendment 9

Amendment 9

Rights retained by the People

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



Question

Amendment 6

Amendment 7

Amendment 8

Amendment 9

Amendment 10

Rights retained by the People

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question

Amendment 9

Question

What does the Ninth Amendment guarantee individuals?

Answer

The Ninth Amendment guarantees that individuals receive all basic rights, not just those listed in the Constitution.

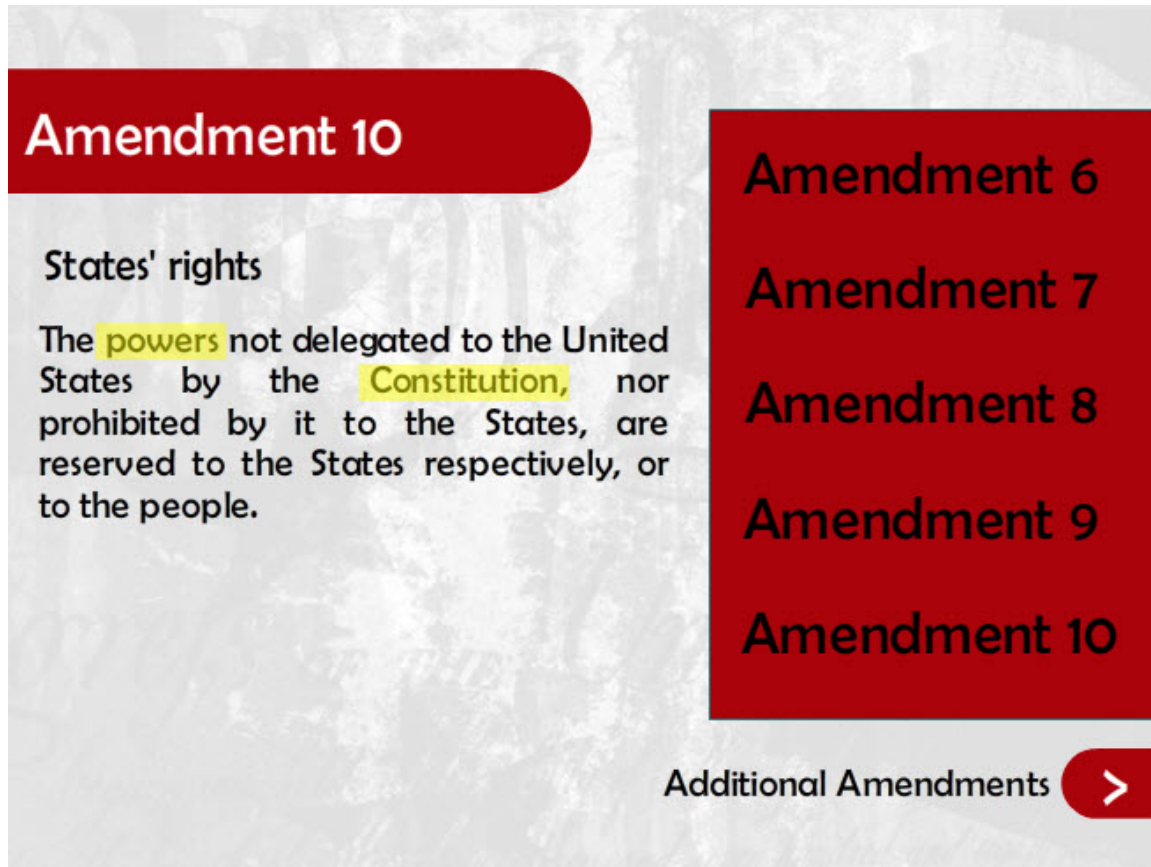
X

What does the Ninth Amendment guarantee individuals?

The Ninth Amendment guarantees that individuals receive all basic rights, not just those listed in the Constitution. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Amendment 10

A content card for Amendment 10. It features a red header with the text "Amendment 10". Below the header, the text "States' rights" is followed by a paragraph: "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." To the right of this text is a vertical red sidebar containing a list of amendments: "Amendment 6", "Amendment 7", "Amendment 8", "Amendment 9", and "Amendment 10". At the bottom right of the card, there is a button labeled "Additional Amendments" with a right-pointing arrow icon.

Amendment 10

States' rights

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.

Amendment 6
Amendment 7
Amendment 8
Amendment 9
Amendment 10

Additional Amendments >

States' rights

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. Click **Question** to learn more about this amendment.

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Question



Amendment 10

Question
The Tenth Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees that state governments receive sufficient power to govern. In your opinion, which political group most likely supported the adoption of the Tenth Amendment, the Federalists or the Anti-Federalists?

Answer
The Anti-Federalists were advocates of strong state governments. This political group would most likely support the adoption of the Tenth Amendment. **X**

The Tenth Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees that state governments receive sufficient power to govern. In your opinion, which political group most likely supported the adoption of the Tenth Amendment, the Federalists or the Anti-Federalists?

The Anti-Federalists were advocates of strong state governments. This political group would most likely support the adoption of the Tenth Amendment. Click the **X** to continue exploring the Bill of Rights.

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Additional Amendments

Additional Amendments

Amendment 11 – Lawsuits against states	Amendment 20 – Terms of office
Amendment 12 – Presidential elections	Amendment 21 – Repeal of prohibition
Amendment 13 – Abolition of slavery	Amendment 22 – Presidential Re-election
Amendment 14 – Civil rights	Amendment 23 – Voting rights in Washington, D.C.
Amendment 15 – Voting Rights for all races	Amendment 24 – Abolition of poll taxes
Amendment 16 – Income taxes	Amendment 25 – Presidential succession
Amendment 17 – Senatorial elections	Amendment 26 – Voting rights for adults
Amendment 18 – Prohibition of liquor	Amendment 27 – Congressional pay raises
Amendment 19 – Voting Rights for all women	

[< Replay Activity](#) [Exit >](#)

When needed, additional amendments have been made to the United States Constitution. These amendments were made in order to continue to limit the power of government and protect individual freedoms. Take a moment to review Amendments Eleven through Twenty-Seven.