

Bill of Rights Jingle

As a companion lesson to study of the Bill of Rights, this lesson uses performance, meter, and rhyme as memorization aids.

GRADES	4 th , 5 th or older
TIME	1 class period; memorization and practice at home
SUBJECTS	Civics, Language Arts, Speech/Performing Arts, Music
STRATEGIES	Class participation
TAGS	Bill of Rights, Constitution, Amendment, jingle
LESSONS	Constitution – Amendment 1-10 Civics – Constitution rights Social Studies – Bill of Rights Language Arts – vocabulary, speech, expressive oral reading, Performing Arts/Speech – rhymical performance

Overview

As a companion lesson to study of the Bill of Rights, this lesson will provide an aid to memorization of many of the rights protected by each amendment, using performance, meter, and rhyme as memorization aids.

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students will:

- Know that the first 10 amendment to the US Constitution together are called the Bill of Rights because they state individual inalienable rights that all laws and policies of the United States or any state within the nation must protect.
- Know that the first 10 amendments were added to the US Constitution very quickly after it was ratified.
- Know the major rights protected by each of the first 10 amendments.
- Memorize and recite the jingle

Vocabulary/Glossary

- Amendment – a formal change or addition to a law, constitution, or other legal document fair treatment through the normal judicial system, especially as a citizen's entitlement.
- Assemble – gather
- Bail - the amount of money people charged with a crime must give to the court to be released from custody until their trial simply to ensure that defendants will appear for trial and all pretrial hearings for which they must be present. After the accused person has appeared all the times they were supposed to, all bail money is returned; if they don't, the court keeps the money
- Bill of Rights – the first 10 Amendments to the United States Constitution
- Cite – (as used here) to state or refer to
- Double Jeopardy – being at risk twice of being tried more than once for the same crime
- Due Process – fair treatment through the normal judicial system, especially as a citizen's entitlement.
- In a trice - very quickly
- Jeopardy – danger
- Jury of Peers – people who are part of your community, state, or nation
- Petition the Government for redress of grievances – the right to make a complaint to, or seek the assistance of, one's government without fear of punishment or reprisals

Included

- Bill of Rights Jingle master for copies
- Original text of the Bill of Rights

Set the Stage

Tell students: When the US Constitution was created, it did not list all the personal inalienable rights that Americans treasured and expected their government to protect. The fact that they had not been named was a serious flaw in the Constitution, so amendments that protected these rights were added very quickly and ratified by the states in 1791. The rights are summed up in simple terms in a little jingle.

Activity 1

Go through the jingle with the students, explaining meanings and terms as needed, and assign the memorization of the jingle.
Discuss.

Activity 2

Students recite the jingle in groups.
Discuss further the amendments.

Extension

Give students the opportunity to memorize and perform the jingle.

Sources

The Bill of Rights

BILL OF RIGHTS JINGLE

by Values Through History

Amendment One

We can worship any way we please.
In speech and writing we are free.
We can assemble if we act nice,
And can petition the Government in a trice.

Amendment Two

Having weapons for protection is all right.

Amendment Three

Soldiers can't demand our things, or eat our food, nor sleep in our homes overnight.

Amendment Four

Let's see your warrant, yessiree,
Or no searching or seizing what's mine or me
Unreasonably.

Amendment Five

Absolutely no double jeopardy;
If the verdict is not guilty, on that crime I'm free;
Can't be tried again - foreverly.
Due process is ALWAYS owed to me
Even I choose to be
Just as silent as a tree.
And no public taking of my property
Without full value as a fee.

Amendment Six

If I get arrested for any crime
A whole host of protections by right are mine,
Like confronting right in front of me
All witnesses at trial, which better be
Tout de suite - Immediately.
And a lawyer will be there to help just me
Even if I'm too poor to pay the fee.

Amendment Seven

If somebody sues me for some acts,
I can have a jury of my peers judge all the facts.

Amendment Eight

Before a trial, crazy high bail
Can't force me to stay inside the jail,
Plus punishments can't be cruel or weird,
Like gargling soap or sleeping on nails.

Amendment Nine

We all have more rights than the Constitution cites.

Amendment Ten

All powers not expressly given to the nation
Belong to the states or the population.