



GRADE 6+

The Bill of Rights | Lesson Plan

What is the Bill of Rights and what rights does it protect?



Students learn about the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution that limit the government's powers and guarantee the fundamental rights of American citizens. They'll join Uncle Sam as he quizzes kid contestants about the Bill of Rights and complete a fun follow-along worksheet.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain why the Founding Fathers created the Bill of Rights.
- Describe how the Bill of Rights affects the power of the federal government.
- Identify the rights guaranteed in the first, second, and fourth amendments and explain why these rights are so important.
- Appreciate the Bill of Rights' impact on our lives and protection of our freedoms.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Unalienable Rights:** Unalienable rights are very important rights that all people have and cannot be taken away. They include things like the right to life (being alive), liberty (being free), and the pursuit of happiness (doing things that make you happy).
- **Constitution:** The Constitution is the founding document that created the governing principles of the United States that are still in effect today. With its original seven Articles, the Constitution establishes the structure of the federal government.
- **The Bill of Rights:** The Bill of Rights is the name of the first ten amendments to the Constitution. It limits the government's power and protects American citizens' fundamental rights.
- **The First Amendment:** The amendment that protects Americans' right to say what they want freely, known as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the press.

Educational Standards: Civics, American Values, U.S. History

What You'll Need

- Video: [Street Smarts: The Bill of Rights](#)



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: The Bill of Rights* ([Download PDF](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm Up: (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *What are some things you can do in our classroom/school? Are these rights or privileges? What are some things that you are guaranteed as a student in our classroom/school? Are these rights or privileges?*
2. Ask: *What is a right? Why do we have rights? What rights do we have?*
3. State: *The Founding Fathers believed that God created everyone and gave us all fundamental rights, such as the right to express ourselves, to worship, to protect ourselves, to own property, and more. They believed that the government's role was to protect our rights. Unfortunately, for most of history, governments often violated the rights of the people. Hence, the Founders created the Bill of Rights to limit the power of the government and protect our rights.*
4. Display a copy of *Street Smarts: Bill of Rights* Worksheet (side with blanks) on a screen in the classroom.
5. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to fill in the blanks as a class. Invite students to share out loud (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see if we got it right.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.
3. Ask: *How are rights protected in America? How do you know if something is right? What would life in America be like without the Bill of Rights?*

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.