

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.5.CG.1.4 <i>Describe the history, meaning, and significance of the Bill of Rights.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will describe how concerns about individual rights led to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.3.1 Explain the structure and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government in Florida.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will compare the powers of Florida's three branches of government. ● Students will explain how the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution protects the rights of citizens.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SS.7.CG.2.3 ● SS.7.CG.2.4

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note: Bill of Rights Day is December 15th ● This benchmark contains content vocabulary also addressed in SS.5.CG.3.2 ● This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.5.CG.2.6 which recognizes the Bill of Rights as a symbol that represents the United States. ● Teaching this benchmark after the benchmarks related to America's founding may make content mastery more achievable for students.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK
<p>→ What to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Describe can mean: explain, justify, connect, or write ◆ Many components of the Bill of Rights have been addressed conceptually in previous grades, however, students have not yet examined the Bill of Rights in depth ◆ Individual rights (also known as unalienable rights) are rights one is born with that cannot be given or taken away by a government

- ◆ Individual rights were originally outlined in the writings of John Locke and adapted by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness)
 - ◆ The Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution as a compromise with Anti-Federalists to ensure ratification. It safeguarded individual rights against the power of the national government
 - ◆ The Bill of Rights details the rights of the people in relation to the power of the national government
 - ◆ The Bill of Rights includes civil rights and liberties, sets rules for due process, and reserves all powers not delegated to the national government to the people or the states
 - ◆ Rights expressed in the Bill of Rights are not absolute, they have limits
 - ◆ Federal and national government may be used synonymously in this context
- Main concepts to teach:
- ◆ The history, meaning, and significance of the Bill of Rights
- Examples:
- ◆ History of the Bill of Rights:
 - Those opposed to ratifying the U.S. Constitution (anti-Federalists) had concerns about the power of the national government and the lack of a bill of rights
 - By December 15, 1791 the first 10 amendments (Bill of Rights) were ratified
 - Influenced by the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, and Virginia's Declaration of Rights
 - ◆ Meaning of the Bill of Rights:
 - First 10 amendments
 - Safeguards individual rights and offers protection from the national government infringing on those rights
 - Civil rights and liberties
 - speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government (Amendment 1)
 - Right to bear arms (Amendment 2)
 - No quartering troops (Amendment 3)
 - Due process of law
 - Amendments 4-8
 - Reserves powers not delegated in the Constitution to the federal government to the people or the states
 - Amendments 9 & 10
 - ◆ Significance:
 - Ensured protections of rights and liberties that had been violated by King George III and Parliament
 - First step "We the People" took to "form a more perfect union"
 - After over 200 years the rights contained in the Bill of Rights have been exercised, restricted, expanded, tested, and debated

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on the Bill of Rights:

1. [FJCC: Bill of Rights Teacher Content Background Knowledge](#)
2. [Ben's Guide GPO: Bill of Rights](#)
3. [National Archives: Bill of Rights](#)