# The Bill of Rights Starring: James Madison



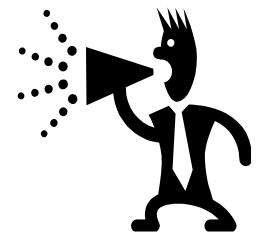
Good afternoon ladies and gents. My name is James Madison and we are going to learn about the Bill of Rights!



- **❖** An amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution
- ❖The first 10 amendments to the US Constitution in 1791 are known as the Bill of Rights
- The Bill of Rights explains the basic rights and liberties, or freedoms, of American citizens
- Introduced by James Madison and George Mason who wanted to make sure the government didn't get too much power and the people were protected

#### 1st Amendment

- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press (news)
- Freedom to peacefully assemble (meet together in groups)
- Freedom to petition the government when the people disagree with what the government has said or done (make a complaint or request)



Right of the people to keep and bear arms





- \*To bear means 'to carry'
- \*Arms are weapons such as guns



Citizens can't be forced to quarter, or provide housing, for soldiers

During the American Revolutionary War, colonists had to house and provide food for British soldiers.

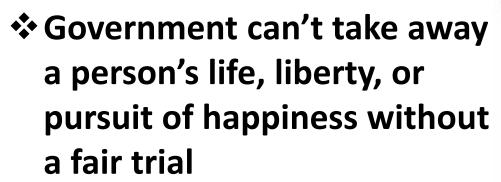


The government must have a reason to search or seize (take) a citizen's property



\*Double-jeopardy refers to being tried for the same crime twice

\* "Pleading the 5th" means that you choose to be silent when questioned



#### Citizens--

- Can't be held for a crime without evidence
- Can't be tried for the same crime twice
- Have the right to remain silent



In CRIMINAL cases dealing with crime—

- Right to a speedy, public trial by a jury
- Right to know what you have been accused of and who accused you
- Right to have a lawyer

If a person can't afford to pay a lawyer, one will be provided.



In CIVIL cases about money or property—

Right to a trial by a jury in a city, state, or national (US) court

A jury is a group of people who listen to evidence during a trial then vote together on guilt or innocence.



- No cruel or unusual punishment
- No excessive (more than necessary) bail or fines

In the United States, citizens can not be punished in a cruel way.



The people have other rights too, even if they aren't listed in the Bill of Rights



Powers that aren't given to the federal (national) government are left to the states and the people

This amendment says that if a power isn't SPECIFICALLY given to the US government, then it belongs to the states and the people.

Texas

Austin (



#### SOURCES

- Additional information about the Bill of Rights for students can be found at <a href="http://kids.laws.com/">http://kids.laws.com/</a>
- A copy of the Bill of Rights in full text can be found at http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill\_of\_rights\_transcript.html

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