

Bill of Rights-LOC lesson 2

By Bethan Stone

Fifth Grade

Objectives:

- Students will examine James Madison's draft of the Bill of Rights and compare it with the final document.
- Students will examine letters written by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington supporting a bill of rights.
- Students will write amendments and letters supporting the amendments.

TEKS

(5.3) History. The student understands the events that led from the Articles of Confederation to the creation of the U.S. Constitution and the government it established

(5.15) Government. The student understands how people organized governments in colonial America.

(5.15) Writing/purposes. The student writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, and in a variety of forms.

Time

- One or two class periods

Context

In Lesson 15 of History Alive students will study the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Using the Interactive Student Notebook, students will paraphrase the meaning of each amendment. In order to realize that many important people supported the addition of the amendments, students will examine letters written by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Then they will compare James Madison's draft of the amendments with the final document.

Lesson

Ask the students how they might go about adding an addition to the Code of Conduct that we recite each morning which would grant specific rights to students. Would letters need to be written or would there need to be discussion? Would the principal and teachers need to agree on the addition? This is similar to the procedure that took place in order for the amendments to be added to the Constitution.

Present letters written by Thomas Jefferson to James Madison and George Washington to Marquis de Lafayette in support of the amendments.

Point out persuasive language that is used in each letter and the audience for which it was written.

Display the picture of James Madison, known as the father of the Constitution. Ask questions about what they see and inferences they might make from the picture. Next display the draft of the proposed amendments one through six and discuss the language Madison used. Compare his draft with the final document.

Extension

Working with their group, ask students to write one addition, or amendment, to the Code of Conduct. It should grant a specific right to students, must be stated in a scholarly manner, and it should relate to statements made in the Code of Conduct. Each group will present their amendment to the class. Then individual students will write a letter to the principal in support of the amendments using persuasive language appropriate for the intended audience.

Assessment

Pick four of the Bill of Rights that, in your opinion, are the most important. Illustrate their meaning and give reasons for your choices.

C1787, Dec. 20, 1787

Dear Sir

Delivered

Paris Dec. 20, 1787.

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My last to you was of Oct. 8. by the Count de Maudslowi, & yours of July 10. Sept. 6. & Oct. 22. have been successively received, & reading the day before & three or four days before that. I have only had time to read the letters, the printed papers communicated with them, however interesting, being obliged to lie over till I finish my dispatches for the packet, which dispatches must go from hence the day after tomorrow. I have much to thank you for, first and most for the epistolary paragraph respecting myself. These little informations are very material towards forming my own decisions. I would be glad even to know when any individual member thinks I have gone wrong in any instance, if I know myself it would not excite ill blood in me, while it would assist to guide my conduct, perhaps to justify it, and to keep me to my duty, alert. I must thank you too for the information in the Pardo's case, tho' you will have found by a subsequent letter that I have asked of you a further investigation of that matter. It is to gratify the lady who is at the head of the Convent wherein my daughters are, & who, by her attachment & attention to them, lays me under great obligations. I shall hope therefore still to receive from you the result of the further enquiries my former letter had asked. — The parcel of rice which you informed me had miscarried accompanied my letter to the Delegates of S. Carolina. Mr. Boscain was to be the bearer of both.

6042

Mr. Madison
6042

April 1788

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The Marq^s de la Fayette

Have now before me, my dear Marq^s, your favor of the 3 of August in the last year; together with those of the 5th of January, the 2^d of January and the 4th of February in the present— Though the first is of so antient a date, they all came to hand lately, and nearly at the same moment. The frequency of your kind remembrance of me, and the endearing expressions of attachment, are by so much the more satisfactory, as I recognise them to be a counterpart of my own feelings for you. In truth, you know I speak the language of sincerity and not of flattery, when I tell you, that your letters are ever most welcome and dear to me.

This I lay out to be a letter of Politics. We are looking anxiously across the Atlantic for news, and you are looking anxiously back again for the same purpose. It is an interesting subject, to contemplate how far the war, kindled in the north of Europe, may extend its conflagrations, and what may be the result before its extinction. The Turke appears to have lost his old and acquired a new connection. Whether England has not, in the hour of her pride, overacted her part and pushed matters too far her own interest, time will discover: but, in my opinion (though from my distance and want of minute information I should form it with diffidence) the affairs of that nation cannot long soon in the same prosperous train: in spite

George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 2 Letterbooks

George Washington to Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, April 28, 1788 Letterbook 15 Image 83

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The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

Mount Vernon, April 28, 1788.

I have now before me, my dear Marqs. your favor of the 3d of August in the last year; together with those of the 1st. of January, the 2d. of January and the 4th. of February in the present. Though the first is of so antient a date, they all come to hand lately, and nearly at the same moment. The frequency of your kind remembrance of me, and the endearing expressions of attachment, are by so much the more satisfactory, as I recognise them to be a counterpart of my own feelings for you. In truth, you know I speak the language of sincerity and not of flattery, when I tell you, that your letters are ever most welcome and dear to me.

The Conventions of Six States only have as yet accepted the new Constitution. No one has rejected it. It is believed that the Convention of Maryland, which is now in session; and that of South Carolina, which is to assemble on the 12th of May, will certainly adopt it. It is, also, since the elections of Members for the Convention have taken place in this State, more generally believed that it will be adopted here than it was before those elections were made. There will, however, be powerful and eloquent speeches on both sides of the question in the Virginia Convention; but as Pendleton, Wythe, Blair, Madison, Jones, Nicholas, Innis and many other of our first characters will be advocates for its adoption, you may suppose the weight of abilities will rest on that side. Henry and Mason are its great adversaries. The Governor, if he opposes it at all will do it feebly.

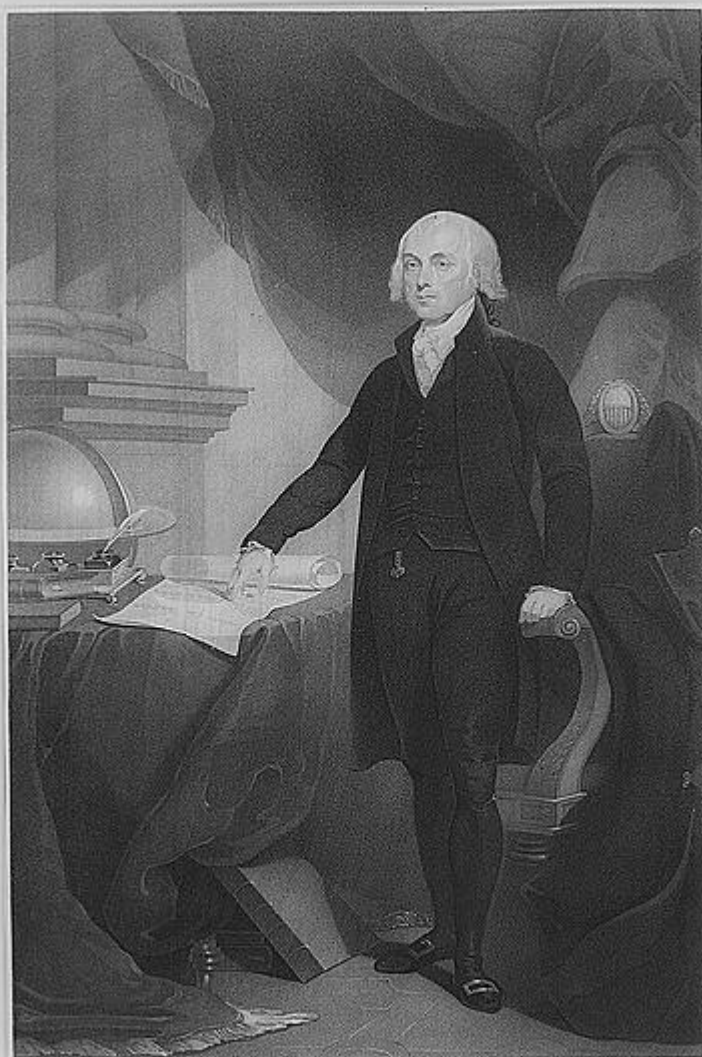
On the general merits of this proposed Constitution, I wrote to you, some time ago, my sentiments pretty freely. That letter had not been received by you, when you addressed to me the last of yours which has come to my hands. I had never supposed that perfection could be the result of accommodation and mutual concession. The opinion of Mr. Jefferson and yourself is certainly a wise one, that the Constitution ought by all means to be accepted by nine States before any attempt should be made to procure amendments. For, if that acceptance shall not previously take place, men's minds will be so much agitated and soured, that the danger will be greater than ever of our becoming a disunited People. Whereas, on the other hand, with prudence in temper and a spirit of moderation, every essential alteration, may in the process of time, be expected.

You will doubtless, have seen, that it was owing to this conciliatory and patriotic principle that the Convention of Massachusetts adopted the Constitution in toto; but recommended a number of specific alterations and quieting explanations, as an early, serious and unremitting subject of attention. Now, although it is not to be expected that every individual, in Society, will or can ever be brought to agree upon what is, exactly, the best form of government; yet, there are many things in the Constitution which only need to be explained, in order to prove equally satisfactory to all parties. For example: there was not a member of the convention, I believe, who had the least objection to what is contended for by the Advocates for a *Bill of Rights* and *Tryal by Jury*. The first, where the people evidently retained every thing which they did not in express terms give up, was considered nugatory as you will find to have been more fully explained by Mr. Wilson and others: And as to the second, it was only the difficulty of establishing a mode which should not interfere with the fixed modes of any of the States, that induced the Convention to leave it, as a matter of future adjustment.

Mrs. Washington, while she requests that her best compliments may be presented to you, joins with me in soliciting that the same friendly and affectionate memorial of our constant remembrance and good wishes may be made acceptable to Madame de la Fayette and the little ones. I am &c.

P. S. May 1st. Since writing the foregoing letter, I have received Authentic Accounts that the Convention of Maryland have ratified the new Constitution by a Majority of 63 to 11.³²

[Note 32: From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.]



Engraved by W. B. Woodcut

JAMES MADISON.

(President of the United States)

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The Conventions of a Number of the States having, at the Time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a Desire, in Order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its Powers, that further declaratory and restrictive Clauses should be added: And as extending the Ground of public Confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its Institution—

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, two thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution—Viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and amendment of, the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

ARTICLE THE FIRST.

After the first enumeration, required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred; to which number one Representative shall be added for every subsequent increase of forty thousand, until the Representatives shall amount to two hundred, to which number one Representative shall be added for every subsequent increase of sixty thousand persons.

ARTICLE THE SECOND.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

ARTICLE THE THIRD.

Congress shall make no law establishing articles of faith, or a mode of worship, or prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition to the government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE THE FOURTH.

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE THE FIFTH.

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.

ARTICLE THE SIXTH.

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.

[\[Proposed Articles of Amendment\]](#)

New York: Thomas Greenleaf

[September 14, 1789]

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