

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORKSHEET

**Chapter 1: American Government and Citizenship
Section 1: Government and the People**

Using the Internet: A Bill of Rights

Directions: Many Americans, having bitter memories of oppression under British rule, were determined that the new government not have powers that would interfere with individual rights. That determination resulted in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Read the preamble that follows and read the Bill of Rights on the website www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.billofrights.html. Then answer the questions.

PREAMBLE to the BILL OF RIGHTS

The Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of 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, namely: (Thus follow Amendments I – X.)

1. From the preamble, why was it deemed necessary to develop the Bill of Rights?

2. What four basic freedoms are included in the First Amendment?

3. What “dangers” do you think the citizens believed existed that required the inclusion of Amendment II?

4. What basic rights do citizens have in Amendments IV, V, VI, and VIII that protect them from improper seizure, arrest, conviction, or imprisonment?

5. Individual states have, on occasion, come into disagreement with the federal government about states’ rights. On what amendment is their argument based?

