

8. What were some of the influences on the United States Bill of Rights?

The following are questions asked by audience members. Record the founding fathers' responses to these questions.

9. Question- Are there times when First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly go too far?

10. Question- Since militias, well-regulated or otherwise, are no longer necessary to the security of a free state, isn't that amendment obsolete?

11. Question- Mr. Hamilton, you said you objected to the Bill of Rights because such guarantees were already inherent in the Constitution. Why not spell them out?

12. Question- In two of our last five presidential elections the popular vote winner lost because of the Electoral College. What was your intention when you created the Electoral College? And given the results of our last presidential election, did it fulfill your intention?

Activity 2: Patrick Henry's Speech "Give me liberty-- or give me death"

As a nation, America was founded on the idea of liberty and freedoms. In Inventing America, Patrick Henry recites the following famous speech given in 1775 that inspired his

fellow Virginians, and eventually the other colonies, to take up arms against the British. In this speech, he talks about fighting for our liberties. Read the following excerpt from his speech and answer the questions below.

The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself guilty of treason.

Our petitions have been slighted ... our supplications have been disregarded, and we have been spurned with contempt from the foot of the throne. In vain, after all these things, we may indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. If we wish to be free ... we must fight! I repeat it, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us that we are weak. But when shall we be stronger? The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active. Our chains are forged. Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable. Let it come! I repeat it, let it come! Gentlemen may cry peace, peace--but there is no peace. The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that we wish? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains or slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God!

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty--or give me death.

1. Highlight 3 phrases that stand out to you that convince the colonies to fight against the British.
2. Why might this speech have inspired so many to unite to fight against the British? Use specific pieces of evidence to defend your answer.

3. How does this speech anticipate the ideas found within the Bill of Rights written 16 years later?

Activity 3: Federalist or Antifederalist

Identify if the following statements are either describing a Federalist or an Antifederalist.

1. Thomas Jefferson _____
2. Alexander Hamilton _____
3. Supported the U.S. Constitution _____
4. Patrick Henry _____
5. Supported the Bill of Rights _____
6. "We the people" _____
7. "We the states" _____
8. Believe in having a strong executive power _____
9. "The states are the soul of this confederation. May they remain so." _____
10. "I go further and affirm that bills of rights, in the sense and to the extent in which they are contended for, are not only unnecessary in the proposed Constitution but would even be dangerous." _____

Which do you agree with more? The Federalists or the Antifederalists? Why?

Activity 4: Analyzing and Applying the Bill of Rights

In *Inventing America*, the characters cited 7 of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights. Read these amendments and rewrite them in your own words. Then, give an example of where you see this amendment applied in your life or in our nation today.

Amendment	Your Own Words	Example
1. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peacefully assemble."		
2. "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."		
3. "No Soldier shall, in times of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner."		
4. "The right of the people to be secure...against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."		

5. "No person shall be...compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."		
8. "Excessive bail shall not be required... nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."		
10. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, or prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."		