The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution in 1787.

They wanted a “living document.” This means the Constitution can change with the country.

A change to the Constitution is called an amendment.

In 1791, a list of ten amendments was added.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights talks about individual rights.

Over the years, more amendments were added.

Now, the Constitution has 27 amendments.

**New Words**

- rights = ___________________________
- amendment = ______________________
- Bill of Rights = ____________________
- individual = _______________________
The First Amendment

The First Amendment is in the Bill of Rights.

Americans often talk about the First Amendment.

The First Amendment protects individual rights or freedoms.

These rights are for everyone living in the United States.

The rights or freedoms from the First Amendment are:

**Freedom of Religion**—You can practice any religion or you can practice no religion.

**Freedom of Speech**—You can say what you want about public problems.

**Freedom of Assembly**—You can meet peacefully to talk about problems and ideas.

**Freedom of the Press**—The government cannot control what people write in newspapers and the media.

**Freedom to Petition the Government**—You can ask the government to change laws.
Word Search—The First Amendment

Find these words in the puzzle.
The words are down (↓) or across (→).
Circle the words.

Word Bank

✔ SPEECH  FIRST  RELIGION
CHANGE  WRITE  AMENDMENT
PETITION  PRESS  RIGHT
SAY  LAWS  MEET

Woolworth employees in Detroit, Michigan, on strike in 1937.
Four Amendments on Voting

The original Constitution did not say who could vote.

Over the years, amendments were added to the Constitution about voting rights.

There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.

- A male citizen of any race can vote.
- Any citizen can vote. Women and men can vote.
- You don’t have to pay to vote.
- Citizens 18 and older can vote.

Today, every U.S. citizen 18 and older has the right to vote.

Voting in a federal election is one right only for U.S. citizens.
Correct the Sentence—Amendments

Read the sentence.
Find the mistake.
Write the sentence correctly.

1. There are six amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.

2. Freedom of religion means you cannot practice any religion.

3. Every U.S. citizen 21 and older can vote.

4. Going to university is one right only for U.S. citizens.

5. The first ten amendments are called the Declaration of Independence.

6. An amendment is an introduction to the Constitution.

7. The Constitution has 31 amendments.
Amendment

Copy the word.

amendment

What is an amendment? A change to the Constitution.

W____ is an amend____? A change _____ the Constitution.

_____ ____ an _________? A ch_____ ____ the Con________.