

# Chapter Summary

## The Bill of Rights

### Lesson 1 *The First Amendment*

- Citizens of the United States have the right to certain basic civil liberties, some of which are found in the First Amendment.
- Under the First Amendment, the government may not establish a state religion, and individuals are free to practice their faith.
- The First Amendment right to free speech allows citizens to express their views both privately and publicly.
- Limits on free speech include a ban on speech that can lead to criminal acts and a ban on spreading lies that can harm a person's reputation.
- Freedom of the press prevents government censorship of news.
- Freedom of assembly allows people to gather in groups.
- Freedom to petition allows individuals to send requests for action to the government.

### Lesson 2 *Other Bill of Rights Protections*

- The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments protect the rights of people who are accused of a crime.
- The Fourth Amendment protects against searching someone's property or taking things he or she owns without probable cause.
- The Fifth Amendment requires that anyone accused of a crime must be given due process. This includes making a formal charge or indictment.
- The Sixth Amendment guarantees a speedy trial and the right to a jury trial.
- The Seventh Amendment protects against excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment.
- The Second Amendment allows people to "keep and bear arms." Courts have generally ruled that states can make laws to control gun ownership.

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### Lesson 2 *Other Bill of Rights Protections, Cont.*

- The Seventh Amendment guarantees the right to a jury trial in civil cases and describes the roles of judges and juries.
- The Tenth Amendment states that any powers the Constitution does not specifically give to the federal government belong to the people.

### Lesson 3 *Furthering Civil Liberties*

- The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments were passed after the Civil War to give more rights to African Americans.
- The Thirteenth Amendment outlawed slavery and banned forced labor, freeing hundreds of thousands of African American slaves.
- “Black codes” in many Southern states deprived African Americans of rights. The Fourteenth Amendment made these laws illegal by requiring states to give all citizens equal protection of the law and due process.
- Other amendments to the Constitution changed voting rights. Some allowed new groups to vote, including African Americans (Fifteenth Amendment), women (Nineteenth Amendment), citizens living in Washington, D.C. (Twenty Fourth Amendment), and young people aged 18 and up (Twenty-Sixth Amendment).