



Visitor from Outer Space

Our Rights and Freedoms

Materials

- Handout A: Rights and Freedoms
 - One per student
- Video: [Visitor from Outer Space](#)
 - If video playback is unavailable, students can act out the story using the dialogue on Handout A.
- Optional- [Jamboard: Visitor Groupwork](#)
 - Share link with each student and assign each group a slide to work on.
- List of 11 fundamental rights displayed for class
 - Rights are listed in Handout A

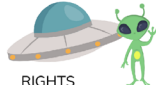
Note:

The optional Jamboard lists the same rights as Handout A, and may help students to organize their thoughts as each group decides which rights to keep.

Jamboard Slide

Instructions:

- Drag five rights into the Keep* box.
- You must all agree on which rights to keep.
- If you can't agree, you will lose all of your rights!



KEEP	RIGHTS
	Right to have a state militia and bear arms.
	Right to freedom of speech.
	Right to a lawyer.
	Protection from cruel and unusual punishment.
	Right to freedom of the press
	Right to a jury trial.
	Right to freedom of religion.
	Right to peacefully assemble.
	Right to privacy.
	Protection from self-incrimination.
	Right to equal protection of the laws.

Overview

In this lesson, students decide which of the rights included in the Constitution's Bill of Rights they value the most. First, students discuss the basic rights of all Americans. Next, they read a short story (or watch a video) about a hypothetical alien creature that takes over the world. The creature is not totally hostile and will allow humans to keep five rights. Finally, students work in small groups to prioritize the five basic rights they find important and report back their findings.

Objectives

Students will:

- Understand that the Bill of Rights is a part of the United States Constitution
- Discuss with their peers what rights are most important to them.
- Work as a team to reach consensus.

Procedure

I. Focus

A. Ask Students:

- Can you name a few basic rights that all Americans have?
- In what historical document can these rights be found?

B. Inform students that today they are going to form groups to evaluate which rights and freedoms they consider to be the most important.

C. eum que dolupta tempore peditatum quam, nimi, si temodit, voluptaturi cuptatecabo.

II. Introducing the Bill of Rights

A. Ask your students to form groups of 3-5 each. Distribute a copy of **Handout A: Rights and Freedoms** to each student.

B. As a class, read the Introduction section of Handout A.

C. Play Video: Visitor from Outer Space for your class.

Alternate: Ask a student volunteer to read the "A Visitor from Outer Space" section of Handout A.

III. Discussion

- A. Review the Activity section of Handout A and answer any student questions about the activity.
 - Make sure groups understand that they must select the five most important rights and that their decision must be unanimous.

TIP: This is a good opportunity to explain the difference between unanimous and majority-rule decision-making. Unanimous decisions require negotiating and consensus building, whereas majority decisions, although much speedier, do not reflect the opinions of all.
 - Tell your students that they have ten minutes to come up with their list of five rights.
 - Remind groups that they must complete their choices within that timeframe or they will lose all their rights.
- B. Check in with your students periodically during their discussions to let them know how much time is remaining.
- C. As you approach the end of the discussion time, ask each group to pick a reporter to share back their choices with the class.

IV. Shareback

- A. Display the list of fundamental rights where everyone can see it.
- B. Ask Reporters to share back their group's selections. Tally each groups' responses by placing a check next to the selected right on the display.
- C. After all groups has shared back, count the tallies for each right and announce the top five rights that they selected as a class. For this step, majority rules. If there is a tie that leaves you with more than five rights, hold a tie-breaking vote to eliminate any extra selection(s).

V. Closing

- D. Ask your students the following questions:
 - Was it difficult to reach a unanimous decision?
 - What are the pros and cons of reaching a unanimous decision versus a majority vote?
 - Would our society be different if we were limited to the five rights you chose? Why or why not?

Rights and Freedoms

Introduction

As a U.S. citizen, you have individual freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. What would life be like if somebody took away your rights? Are some rights more important than others? How would you decide which rights were the most important? Think about these questions while you read the following scenario.

A Visitor from Outer Space

It is the year 2050 and you are watching your wall-sized television monitor when a special news bulletin comes on. A strange, alien-like creature appears on the screen and informs you that he has taken over the United States. You rapidly flick through every channel, but find he is on every one: "ATTENTION", he begins, "I am Sthgir from planet Noitutitsnoc. Just as I have taken over television, I will take over your lives but I come in peace. I realize that individual freedom means a great deal to American citizens.

Consequently, I will not take away all of your rights; you have a choice. From a list of fundamental rights, you may pick five to keep. Think carefully before you vote, as all your rights as citizens will terminate except for the ones you select. You must decide as a group on your interactive televisions and your decision must be unanimous! Failure to make a unanimous decision will result in the termination of all rights. The list of choices will now appear on your television screen. Remember, you may only choose five from the following list of rights to keep

1. Right to have a state militia and bear arms.
2. Right to freedom of speech.
3. Right to a lawyer.
4. Right to protection from cruel and unusual punishment.
5. Right to freedom of the press.
6. Right to a jury trial.
7. Right to freedom of religion.
8. Right to peacefully assemble.
9. Right to privacy.
10. Protection from self-incrimination.
11. Right to equal protection of the laws.



Activity

In small groups, unanimously decide on the five most important rights. Keep in mind that:

- Rights affect our lives on both a personal and societal level; and
- Some rights have a broader scope than others. Think about which rights might include other rights.