

The Mini Page

Issue 40, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
What Shakespeare said



Mini Fact:

The 27th Amendment was ratified in 1992.



Rep. Bella Abzug, right, marches with women in support of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1971.

Making amendments

Any member of Congress can introduce a resolution for a new amendment to the Constitution. A **resolution** is a formal statement expressing an idea for an amendment to be considered for approval.

The resolution must go through other steps, just like bills before Congress. It must be sent to committees and debated in the House and the Senate. It must be approved by two-thirds of each lawmaking group: 290 members of the House and 67 members of the Senate.

It is then sent to the states and becomes the law of the land after three-fourths of the state legislatures approve it (38 states).

Since the Bill of Rights was approved in 1789, more than 10,000 amendments have been put before Congress. Most of these proposals have not been sent to the states.

Last month, we talked about the first five amendments to the Constitution. An **amendment** is a change or addition.

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights**. They were added in 1791 to limit the power of the national government over the people.

How amendments are made

- Congress can propose changes: Amendments can be proposed by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress. All of our amendments have been proposed this way.
- States can propose changes: Two-thirds of the state legislatures, or lawmaking bodies, can ask Congress to call a national convention to propose an amendment.

Repealing an amendment

Congress can also use an amendment to **repeal**, or do away with, an earlier amendment.

In 1919, the 18th Amendment banned the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcoholic beverages. In 1933, the 21st Amendment repealed the 18th, making it legal again to make and sell liquor.

Let's explore amendments six through 10.

The Sixth Amendment

- Lists the rights you have if you are charged with a crime. It guarantees:
 - ✓ a speedy trial as soon as possible after your arrest.
 - ✓ a fair jury of citizens who live in the

same area where the crime was supposedly committed.

- ✓ a report of exactly what crime you are accused of.
- ✓ an opportunity to defend yourself against any witness who testifies against you.
- ✓ a lawyer to represent you, paid for by the government if you are unable to pay yourself.

Lt. Col. Michelle L.K. Raven gives instructions to the jury during a mock, or pretend, trial for students.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Edward D. Holzapfel

The Seventh Amendment

- Extends your right to a trial by jury in civil cases (dealing with disagreements between two people or people and their governments). Most of these disagreements are about money.

The Eighth Amendment

- The government cannot demand that a person pay bail or fines that are too high and unreasonable. Also, punishment for a crime cannot be cruel or unusual.

The Ninth Amendment

- Entitles citizens to rights not listed in the Constitution.

The Tenth Amendment

- Powers not given to the U.S. government are reserved to the states or to the people.

In 2005, Betty Debnam, creator of The Mini Page, worked closely with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to create a nine-part series of issues about our U.S. Constitution. This is the final issue in the series.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPamend

At the library:

- "The Bill of Rights in Translation: What It Really Means" by Amie Jane Leavitt

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of amendments are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

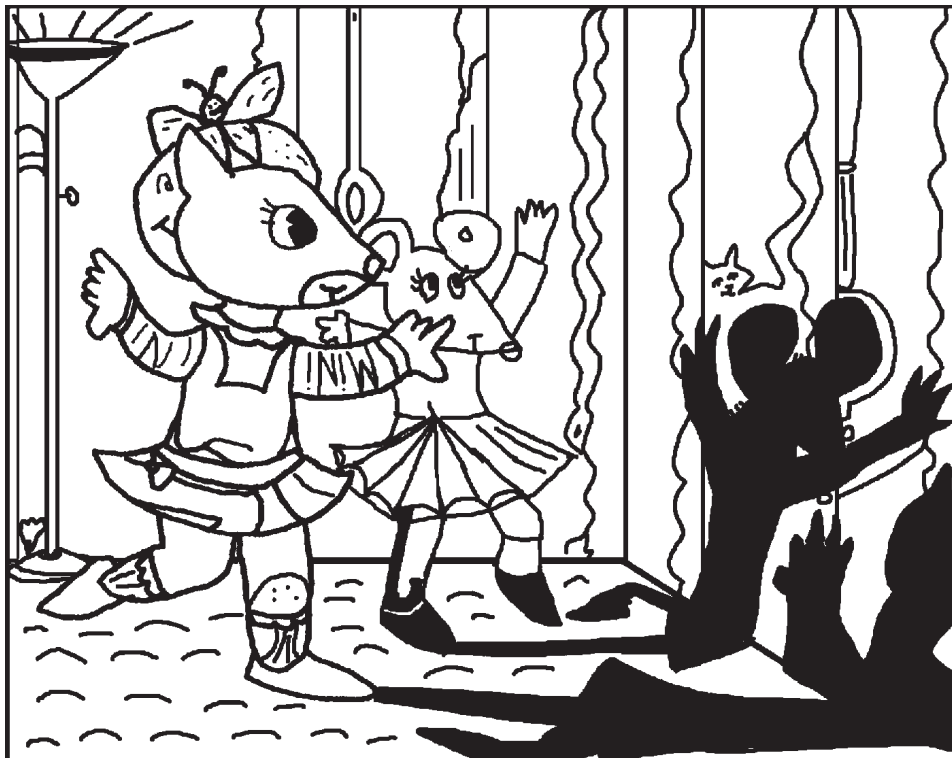


AMEND, BILL, CIVIL, CONGRESS, CRUEL, DEFEND, GOVERNMENT, HOUSE, JURY, LAWYER, MOCK, PEOPLE, POWER, REPEAL, RESOLUTION, RIGHTS, SENATE, STATES, TRIAL, UNUSUAL.

H	D	R	R	C	W	J	S	T	A	T	E	S	K	P
K	Z	O	O	D	O	T	Y	Q	H	O	U	S	E	E
L	L	A	U	S	U	N	U	P	O	W	E	R	L	O
E	J	L	M	I	E	W	G	D	J	U	R	Y	P	P
U	Z	A	L	A	E	P	E	R	I	G	H	T	S	L
R	X	W	C	M	W	F	E	S	E	N	A	T	E	E
C	H	Y	E	E	L	L	I	B	S	M	O	C	K	
T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	T	S	X	L	E
B	I	R	D	D	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R
V	N	X	L	Z	L	I	V	I	C	L	A	I	R	T

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and Alpha Mouse are playing with their shadows. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- exclamation mark
- man in the moon
- key
- umbrella
- knife
- mushroom
- cat
- pencil
- word MINI
- snake
- heeled shoe
- tooth
- question mark
- spoon
- butterfly

Mini Jokes



Allison: What's Thomas Jefferson's favorite treat?
Andy: Monti-Jello!

Eco Note



Australia's magpies swoop down on people to protect their hatchlings, but they usually don't start that behavior until later in the year. This year, they've already been menacing the human population for weeks. Behavioral ecologist Darryl Jones says the early swooping is probably because the birds were tricked into nesting early by recent warmer winters. People have been warned not to make eye contact with the birds, to carry umbrellas and to walk, not run, in areas where magpies are nesting.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the upcoming election.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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