The Bill of Rights

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

When the states agreed to the Constitution, several asked for more to be added to it, so that the new government could not misuse its powers.

On September 25, 1789, Congress proposed 12 amendments, or additions. By December 15, 1791, lawmakers in three out of every four states had approved ten of them: the Bill of Rights.

The First Amendment protects the freedom to say and print what you think, to gather in a group, to ask the government to fix problems, and to follow your own religion.

The Third Amendment says the government cannot force people to let soldiers use their homes. Before the Revolutionary War, laws let British soldiers take over people's homes.

The Ninth Amendment says people also have rights the Constitution does not list.

In 1992, 203 years after Congress proposed it, one more of the 12 became the 27th Amendment.

1. **What is the Bill of Rights?**

2. **Name two freedoms the First Amendment protects.**

3. **Why do you think the Third Amendment was added?**

4. **Why do you think the Ninth Amendment was added?**

Answer key

The Bill of Rights

1. What is the Bill of Rights?
   The ten amendments, or additions, to the Constitution that the states had approved by December 15, 1791.

2. Name two freedoms the First Amendment protects.
   Any two of these: saying and printing what you think, gathering in a group, asking the government to fix problems, following your own religion.

3. Why do you think the Third Amendment was added?
   Because before the Revolutionary War, laws let British soldiers take over people's homes.

4. Why do you think the Ninth Amendment was added?
   Sample answer: no list can name every right. It makes sure a right is not lost just because it was left off the list.