CARDINAL COMPASS - CIVICS NO. 2 - HANDS-ON LEARNING - WITH CARL THE CARDINAL

The Bill of Rights

VOL. 2

Ten promises that protect everyone's freedoms. Match the promises, write your own house promises, and spot the missing promise in three pretend stories.

The Bill of Rights is part of the real Constitution of the United States, and its promises bind the real government. The games in this book are practice at home. Your house promises on page 9 are your family's own promises, made by your family, for your home.



Cover illustration: an unrolled parchment scroll with ten numbered lines, a feather quill in an ink pot, and white columns behind.

Read together	Match together	Grown-up with you for every activity



Meet Carl - Rights Carl

Carl the Cardinal is your guide. For this project, Carl is learning the ten promises that protect everyone's freedoms. He holds the tall scroll with both wings. He counts its lines: one, two, three, all the way to ten. His green neckerchief and gold compass medallion stay on. Color your own Carl on the last page.

How to use this book: Pages 2-4 tell what a right is, where the Bill of Rights came from, and what each promise says. Page 5 asks who each promise restrains. Page 6 is the promises page. Read it first, and read it well. Then do the three activities. Finish with the questions. Color Carl at the end.

Keep a notebook near you. Write your matches. Write your promises.

You will need, for all three activities: pencils and crayons, tape, one big sheet of paper or poster board, scissors for grown-up hands, and a table or floor space for a card game.

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What is a right?

The Constitution is the big rulebook for the whole country. It says how the government works. This book is about ten promises that were added to it. Those promises protect the freedoms of every person in the country.

Right: a constitutional right is a freedom or protection the Constitution recognizes. It limits what the government can do.

Freedom: freedom is being able to make your own choices, speak your own thoughts, and live your own life, without the government stopping you unfairly.

Protect: to protect is to keep someone or something safe from harm.

Amendment: an amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution, made in the way the Constitution allows.

Private: private means belonging to you or your family, and not open for others to look through or take without permission.

Worship: to worship is to pray and to honor God in the way your family chooses.

Petition: to petition is to ask the government to address a problem. Address means to do something about a problem.

Limit: to limit is to stop something from going too far.

Bill of Rights: the Bill of Rights is the name for the first ten amendments to the Constitution, taken together.

Why write the promises down?

When the states said yes to the Constitution, many of them asked for one more thing. Write the promises down, they said. Say them in the rulebook itself, so nobody can forget them. Writing it down gives everyone the same words to point to and discuss.

A promise is a serious word you give that you will do what you said. A promise that is only said out loud can be forgotten. A promise that is written down can be read again. It can be pointed to. And it can be kept.

So the new country set out to write its promises down. The next page tells who wrote Virginia's earlier list, and where he lived. He lived right here in Virginia.

Rights limit the government

A constitutional right is a freedom or protection the Constitution recognizes. It limits what the government can do. Different protections apply in different situations. That is why this book practices matching. You match each protection to the situation it fits.