

Name _____

Bill of Rights Day

Thank You, Ancient Greece!

The United States was not the first country to give rights to its citizens.

Read the passage. Then use the words from the word bank to complete each sentence.

Many people know that the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution gives rights to the people. It also controls the power of the government. But did you know that the concept of people's rights goes back to the ancient Greeks? More than 2,500 years ago, the rulers of Greece wanted to make sure that no one person or group became too powerful. They began to give rights to the people. Free Greek men were allowed the right to bring cases to court and even had the right to vote.

America's forefathers took notes from older documents in use around the world. James Madison used ideas from the English Bill of Rights as well as the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

In America, Bill of Rights Day is observed on December 15. This is the anniversary of the day the first ten amendments were added to the Constitution.



1. _____ observes Bill of Rights Day on December 15.
2. The _____ of ancient Greece did not want _____ to become too powerful.
3. America's _____ who wrote the Bill of Rights used ideas from _____ the world.
4. James Madison used the Virginia Declaration of _____ as a reference.
5. The _____ Greeks introduced the _____ of people's inalienable rights.
6. The Bill of Rights gives power to the _____.
7. The Bill of Rights is meant to _____ the power of the government.
8. James _____ also used the _____ Bill of Rights as inspiration.



Write each circled letter from above in order on the lines below to reveal a special message.

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