The Bill of Rights

Our Protections - Our Liberties
The major principles of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution were based on earlier Virginia statutes!
Virginia’s Influence:

- The major principles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights Came from the Virginia Declaration of Rights
- This outlined basic human rights which the government should not violate.

Written by George Mason in 1776
Virginia’s Influence:

- The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom ended the practice of a government supported church.
- Separation of Church and State in Virginia
- Written by Thomas Jefferson

Separation of Church and State was very important to Jefferson
The Bill of Rights:

- James Madison, a Virginian, consulted the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom when drafting the amendments that eventually became the United States Bill of Rights.

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution define rights that cannot be taken away!
Our Essential Liberties:

1\textsuperscript{st} - Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition
2\textsuperscript{nd} - state militia - bare arms
3\textsuperscript{rd} - quartering soldiers
4\textsuperscript{th} - protections from unlawful searches and seizures
5\textsuperscript{th} - grand jury indictment, double-jeopardy, self-incrimination and due process
6\textsuperscript{th} - speedy and public trial, jury trial, legal counsel and confront witnesses
7\textsuperscript{th} - jury trial in civil cases
8\textsuperscript{th} - cruel and unusual punishment
9\textsuperscript{th} - enumeration of rights
10\textsuperscript{th} - Federalism (powers not delegated to U.S. or denied to states belong to states or the people)
The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are the rules that the government must follow. This framework limits the power of the government- and effectively protects the liberties of the people!