

BILL OF RIGHTS

The Bill of Rights is part of the United States Constitution. It is the first ten amendments. An amendment is a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution. Each of the ten amendments outline very different issues. These amendments guarantee basic rights and liberty to the citizens of the United States. The Bill of Rights was drafted independently from the United States Constitution, then added later. Before the Constitution, the original 13 states were under the authority of the Articles of Confederation.

The Founding Fathers had a deep distrust in any form of federal (national) government. In their opinion, Britain had not treated the colonies well. As a result, the Founding Fathers wanted to make sure that the new government would be fair, yet stable. They did not want a government that was excessively powerful. They understood that the United States needed a federal government, but they did not want a government that limited the freedoms of the people. The original constitution (plan of government) did not clearly state what the government could and could not do. The writers, or framers, of the Constitution wanted to make sure that people were protected from the government. Some famous Founding Fathers included George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

There were intense debates between the delegates (representatives) of the states about the original Constitution. Everyone agreed that the Constitution was a good blueprint for the federal government, but they also understood that it had flaws. Many of the delegates from the states would not have ratified, or approved, the Constitution without a Bill of Rights. This proved to be a big obstacle for the new government. The people also wanted strong guarantees that the new government would not be too powerful. The Founding Fathers and the people all wanted a government that was limited but correctly limited. Several states signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787.

3

An _____ is a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution.



Clause



Delegate



Amendment



Article

4

_____ delegates refused to sign the Constitution without a Bill of Rights.



3



4



5



6

5

What word means to accept a plan of government?



Ratify



Oppose



Amendment



Constitution

6

Which group wanted a strong national government?



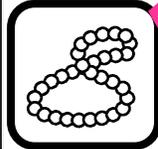
Anti-Federalists



Federalists



Loyalists



Delegates

7

What is another word for the writers of the Constitution?



Grocery



Farmers



Blow-dry



Firemen

8

Madison drafted a Bill of Rights that had _____ amendments.



15



13



27



19

9

When was the U.S. Constitution signed?



August 17, 1787



September 17, 1787



July 17, 1787



June 17, 1787

10

The Bill of Rights was drafted in _____.



Philadelphia



New York City



Cleveland

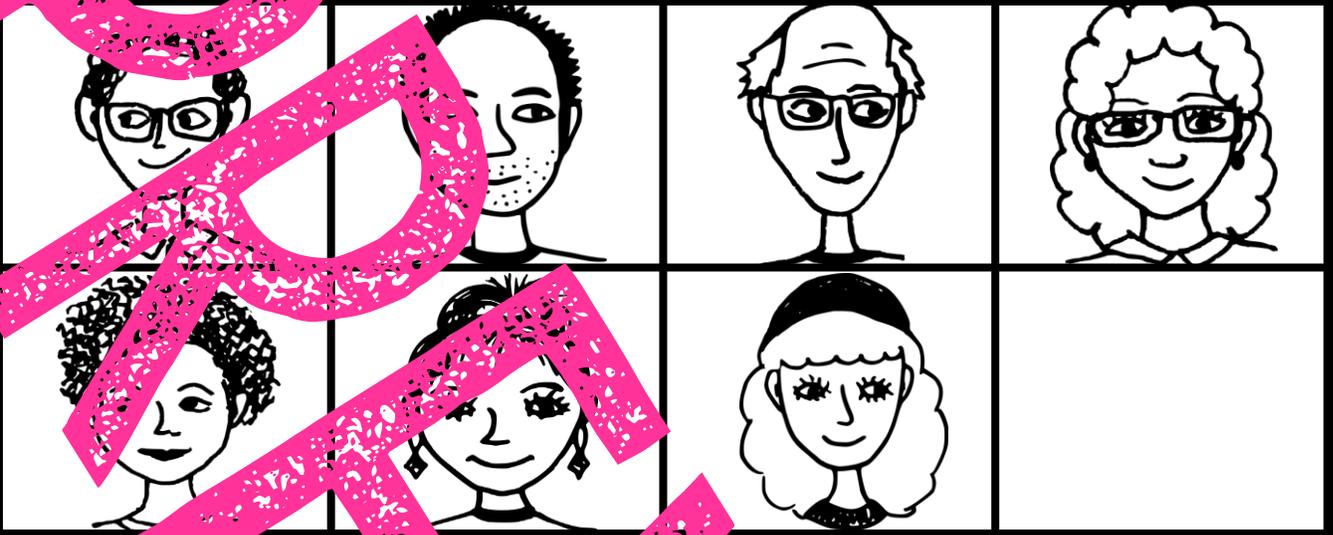


Boston

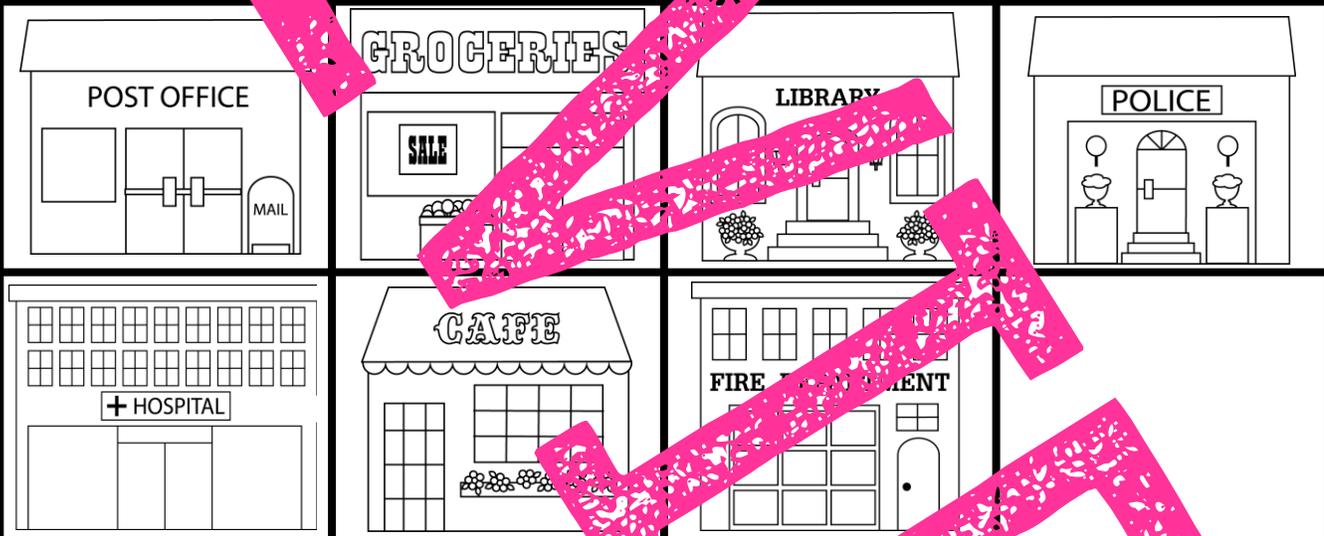
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

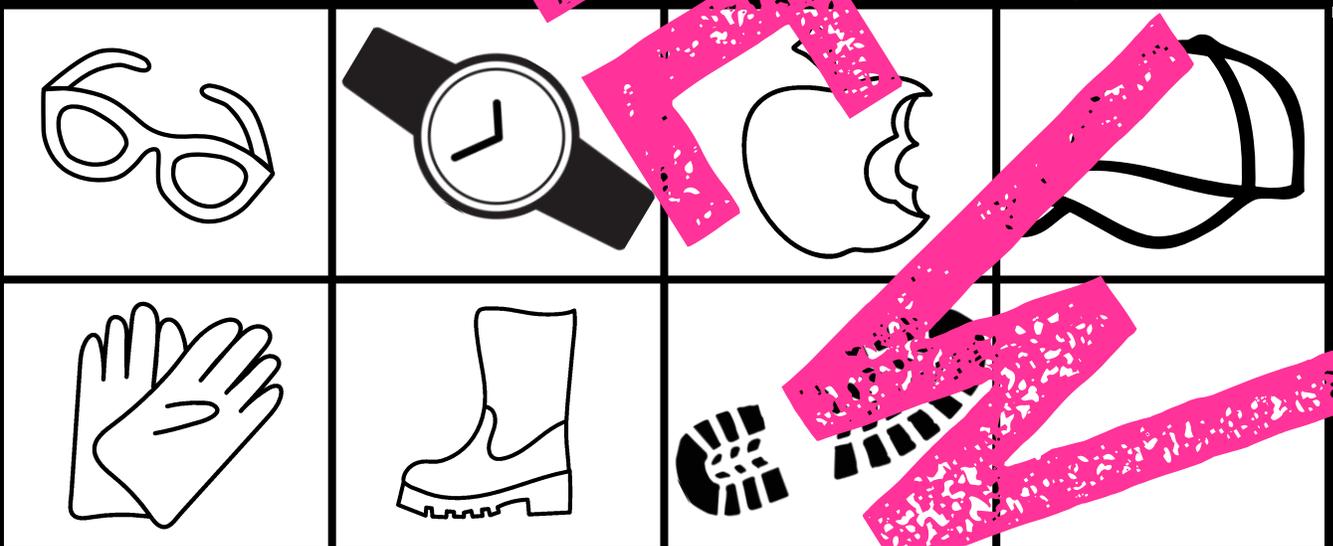
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

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