



MAGNA CARTA & THE CONSTITUTION RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED

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Name:

Class:

In this activity, we'll look at how the rights of those accused of a crime were/are protected in two major documents: The Magna Carta, from 1215, and the U.S. Constitution, written in 1787 - 1789.

U.S. Constitution – 5th Amendment

Magna Carta – Statute 39

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

How do each of these documents safeguard a person's rights to property?



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What language is used in each document to indicate that a person is entitled to a fair trial?

What additional protections are offered in this portion of the U.S. Constitution (The 5th Amendment) that are not in the section of the Magna Carta?

There are more protections for the rights of the accused in the 4th, and the 6th-8th Amendments of the Constitution. Why did the Framers spend so much time (half of the Bill of Rights) on the rights of people accused of crimes? Why is it important to know what your rights are?