

Name _____

THE Third Amendment

Introduction:

The Third Amendment defines the relationship between citizens and the military. It states that private citizens don't have to provide housing for the armed forces. The basis for this is rooted in the Revolutionary War era, when colonists were expected to house English soldiers. Today, this amendment is rarely tested in the courts. In fact, the Supreme Court has never ruled on a case involving the Third Amendment.

The text of this amendment reads, "No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law."

Questions:

1. What right is protected under the Third Amendment?
2. What year was the Third Amendment ratified?
3. What does "quartering" mean?
4. According to the Third Amendment, who must consent to quartering in peace times?
5. What was the Quartering Act of 1774?
6. What two wars used private homes to quarter soldiers?
7. What does Patrick Henry claim was, "one of our first complaints" against England?
8. What does the Supreme Court say about the Third Amendment?
9. How might the Third Amendment be used to protect privacy rights?
10. How could the Third Amendment become relevant in the future?

Answer Key

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Questions:

1. What right is protected under the Third Amendment?
No quartering of soldiers
2. What year was the Third Amendment ratified?
1791
3. What does "quartering" mean?
Room and board
4. According to the Third Amendment, who must consent to quartering in peace times?
The owner
5. What was the Quartering Act of 1774?
Law stating that British troops would be housed in private homes
6. What two wars used private homes to quarter soldiers?
War of 1812, Civil War
7. What does Patrick Henry claim was, "one of our first complaints" against England?
"Quartering of troops upon us"
8. What does the Supreme Court say about the Third Amendment?
Nothing, it has never ruled on the Third Amendment.
9. How might the Third Amendment be used to protect privacy rights?
Answers will vary; It could be implied that the government in general must stay out of our private lives.
10. How could the Third Amendment become relevant in the future?
Answers will vary; In a future war, we may need to house soldiers, or in a time of crisis.