

Game Theory for Elementary School

BRAVE games, including JAMs, are a Game Theory application called “repeated games” that explore the role trust plays in conflict and cooperation.

With JAMs, students use skilled reading to layer viewpoints, detect bias, diagnose and transform working dilemmas. Groups of 4 can use these 30-minute activities as prequels or sequels to BRAVE board game learning, or as stand-alone fun.

Each booklet in this series presents a unique schema designed to support students as they play through its correlating JAM.

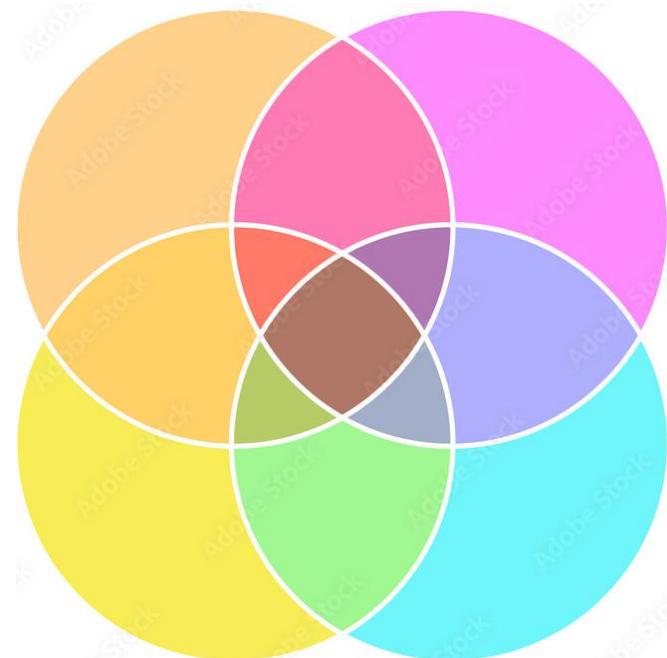
Explore one schema, or try them all:

Game Theory
context
perspective
change
conflict
rights
cooperation
connection
trust
creativity

Taken together, students build tools needed to navigate any social studies class with discerning minds.



Rights & Responsibilities



For parents & teachers: Welcome!

BRAVE games, including JAMs, are consistent with Science of Reading instructional guidelines. Tightly-scoped, this inquiry-led method puts knowledge in the foreground to cut across a range of K4-5 standards, meeting all learners where they are to get everyone in the game!

We take learning seriously. And for fun.

JAMs break from typical programming insofar as they're consistent with cognitive science. First, human connection sparks intrinsic motivation, incentivizing skilled reading. The beauty of this method is that players *want* to grapple with embedded vocabulary, engage in healthy discussion, and solve group problems. It's fun. This means students embrace the thrill of collaborating, reasoning with facts, sequencing, and testing truths.

Writing extensions provide explicit instructions to support students as they process, integrate, and store new knowledge. This last step is key because, according to Cognitive Load Theory, it effectively clears one's working memory, laying a foundation of knowledge to excel in equivalent classes at higher grades.

Messy? R&D revealed students thrive with this inquiry-led approach because it's intriguing. At that rate, they're positioned to soar beyond our wildest dreams.

VOCABULARY

amendment addition to a document; act, bill, clause, measure, motion, revision

beacon light used as signal, guidepost

Bill of Rights first 10 laws in US Constitution

citizen person native to or naturalized in a country; inhabitant, resident, taxpayer

constitution charter, code, custom, legislation; or a nature/structure of something

detract diminish; reduce; take away a part; lessen

deterrant hindrance, impediment, restraint, obstacle

evolve develop, expand, grow, mature, unfold

justice authority, due process, honesty, integrity, truth

law collection of rules prescribed under the authority of a state or nation, as by the people in its constitution

myriad innumerable, countless, endless, multiple

pluralist melting pot, societal fusion

rule guideline, order, precedent, regulation,

trust belief in something as true, trustworthy

4. SUMMARY

The Bill of Rights is a set of ten laws found alongside the US Constitution, cherished by US citizens for outlining personal freedoms and civil rights. These laws protect individuals in extraordinary times, while helping us feel safe in our day-to-day lives simply knowing we can expect justice.

Note, when the Constitution went into effect in 1789, the rights we enjoy today didn't apply to enslaved humans, women, white men who didn't own land, or Native nations. This isn't to say the Constitution isn't perfect; *to the contrary!* Our nation was designed to **evolve**, mature over time.

Still, living in community is not without challenges. Informal settings require we create rules to set boundaries. This helps us recognize our responsibility to each other, since preserving others' rights depends on everyone behaving.

The overwhelming majority of citizens have done their best to obey the law of the land, however, where rules aren't strong enough to protect rights, we've created laws, plus amendments to existing laws to ensure justice prevails. In this sense, we are a nation of laws, a people committed to justice for all. It isn't easy; *but it's not supposed to be easy.* Every generation faces different hurdles so that they might learn how to strive toward a more perfect union.

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two sides of the same coin

What are you waiting for?! Dig in!

1. RIGHTS

The **Bill of Rights** is a list of 10 personal “rights” enshrined in the US **Constitution**. These rights outline individual civil rights and liberties. At the time the US Constitution was ratified, these rights were so remarkable they set the US apart from any other nation. While these rights are more common today, though not universal, the Bill of Rights remind us the US has long been a **beacon** hope, a guidepost for the people of the world regarding what a nation can accomplish.

Below are the first 6 of the 10 rights contained in the Bill of Rights, also called **amendments** since they're additions to the main body of the Constitution:

1st Amendment	Freedom of Speech
2nd Amendment	Freedom to bear arms
3rd Amendment	Freedom from housing soldiers
4th Amendment	Bars government from unreasonable search & seizure of individuals & property
5th Amendment	Provide due process; right to trial by judge, court, or jury
6th Amendment	...more protections for accused criminals

RULE OF LAW: RESPONSIBILITY GUIDING QUESTIONS CLASS DISCUSSION

- 1. RE-TELL** Explain the “rule of law.”
- 2. REVIEW** If we fail to demonstrate to responsibility vis-à-vis upholding the law, including the personal rights of others, what mechanisms have we put in place to course correct?
- 3. REASON** Explain how the concept of rights and responsibilities are “two sides of the same coin.” Give examples. Do you agree that these two functions are mutually inclusive, meaning you can't have one without the other?

2. RULE OF LAW: RESPONSIBILITY



Like other rules, the rule of law falls on individuals to hold themselves accountable to live by agreed-upon norms, rules, and laws. Whereby *nobody* is above the law. As such, the US is a nation of laws. This means our capacity to honor laws reinforces the government's authority.

Notwithstanding citizens' responsibilities to honor and uphold all laws, our governing system is complex, and breaking the law has **deterrents**, or consequences, such as being arrested, tried, indicted, fined, and/or sentenced to prison. Still, some people seem to get away with breaking or bending the law. Does this mean that a **pluralist** society, a melting pot comprised of people from different backgrounds and having different norms, values and beliefs doesn't deserve the privilege of our collective trust? Or can we rise to the occasion, work through our differences with transparency and fair play to defend our current system?

We know that no nation is perfect, yet our daily lives are better because we depend on the rule of law and the sense of safety it offers, which rests on hundreds of years of trust. This explains why everyone, including elected officials, especially elected officials, swear to uphold and defend the Constitution even when they don't agree with certain laws.

RIGHTS

GUIDING QUESTIONS CLASS DISCUSSION

1. RE-TELL To whom does the Bill of Rights apply? What document list these rights? How many rights are "bundled" into this set, or bill?
2. REVIEW What freedoms does the Bill of Rights protect? Who may claim those rights? BONUS: Have we added more rights to the original list? Can you name any of those rights?
3. REASON At the time the Framers wrote the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights was highly unique. Singular. That isn't true today since many nations have since patterned their constitutions after the US Constitution. Does this suggest the US plays a global role in terms of leadership (modeling behavior and innovation)? Explain

2. RULES vs. LAWS



Rights are awesome! Yet living in community is far more complex than simply having rights, since rights imply protecting people from someone or some danger. Living in community means different people have different ideas of acceptable behavior, implying we must have mechanisms in place to ensure one person's ability to exercise their rights doesn't **detract**, limit, reduce others' rights. How so?

In small settings, homes and classrooms, we create rules that set boundaries outlining acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The goal of a rule is to protect others' freedoms. For example: don't lie (so others may know the truth); don't leave a mess (so others may live in a clean space); don't steal (so others may feel secure). Rules are hard to enforce, though, because they mostly rely on individuals to hold themselves accountable. This is called personal responsibility, versus relying on the threats of punishment.

In larger settings, we use laws to protect rights. Laws are more strict than rules. For example, we have **myriad**, several or complex processes and procedures to prevent, make, approve and implements mechanisms to ensure justice if rights are violated. This list extends from electing government officials, writing/ratifying bills, building a police force, positioning state and federal court systems to analyze crimes and deliver punishment.

RULES vs. LAWS

GUIDING QUESTIONS CLASS DISCUSSION

1. RE-TELL What two mechanisms listed in the reading do communities use to help people feel safe and protected?
2. REVIEW Explain how rules are different from laws.
3. REASON Would you infer from this reading that rules have a more powerful influence over our society, or that laws have a more powerful influence?