



Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

United States History

Primary Sources: The Magna Carta (1215)

DIRECTIONS: The left column contains excerpts from the Magna Carta. Using the column to the right, paraphrase each excerpt from the document.

John, by the grace of God, king of England. . .greetings.

1. . . .for us and our heirs forever that the English Church shall be free, and shall have her rights entire, and her liberties inviolate. . .	
12. No scutage nor aid shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by common counsel of our kingdom. . .	
38. No bailiff for the future shall, upon his own unsupported complaint, put anyone into his "law," without credible witnesses brought for this purpose.	
39. No freeman shall be seized, imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, or exiled, or in any way destroyed; nor will we proceed against or prosecute him except by the lawful judgement of his peers, or by the law of the land. . .	
40. To none will we sell, to none will we deny, to none will we delay right or justice. . .	
42. It shall be lawful to any person. . .to leave our kingdom and to return. . .	

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions using **complete sentences**.

1. In what **year** was the Magna Carta drafted?

2. Which **English king** signed the Magna Carta? Explain **why** this king would have agreed to do so, knowing that he was surrendering some of his power.

3. What **freedom** is described in **Line 1** of the Magna Carta? Which **amendment** to the United States Constitution might have been based on this section?

4. In **Line 12**, what rule does the Magna Carta set forth regarding **taxation**?

5. Briefly describe the protection(s) guaranteed in **Line 38**. Why is this significant?

6. Briefly describe the protections guaranteed in **Lines 39 and 40**. Which **amendment(s)** to the Constitution might have been based on these sections?
