

## American Religious Liberties

### Religious Tolerance

Can you imagine what it would be like if the government could order you to go to church, or if it could outlaw the temple or mosque you attended? Thanks to the experience of early colonists, you do not have to worry about situations like these.

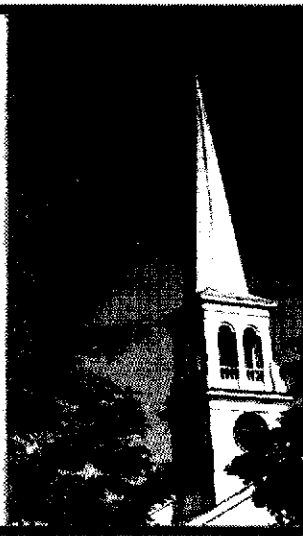
Many early colonists settled in America to escape persecution in their home countries. Sometimes these new settlements were tolerant of other religions; sometimes they were as intolerant as the places the colonists had fled.

Years later, the founding fathers debated the role of religion in the new country. Some, like Patrick

Henry, argued for a national church to provide a moral base. Others, like Thomas Jefferson, recalled the intolerance of some early settlements and strongly opposed having a state religion.

When the Constitution was adopted, this debate was still not fully resolved. With the passage of the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment prohibited the government from interfering in your religious freedom.

1. What role did religion play in the arrival of early American colonists?
2. Why do you think some colonial settlements were successful in supporting religious liberty while others were not?



sailed to the Caribbean islands and claimed lands for Spain. Columbus and his crews were the first Europeans to build settlements in the Americas.

### The Immigrants

Europeans soon learned that the Americas possessed vast natural resources. It had plenty of room for newcomers from crowded regions of Europe.

Spanish settlers soon spread across the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, and present-day Florida, Texas, California, and the southwestern United States. People from the British Isles settled America's original thirteen colonies. Other Europeans also came to North America. Germans settled in Pennsylvania, the Dutch along

### ANALYSIS SKILL READING TIME LINES

Sequence When was the Pilgrims' landing?



1900

Southern and eastern Europeans enter the United States in large numbers.



1985

The Immigration and Naturalization Act eliminates national origin quotas, thus clearing the way for the arrival of more immigrants from non-European countries.

1986

The Immigration Reform and Control Act attempts to reduce the flow of illegal immigration.

Today

Most immigrants to the United States today are Hispanic or Asian.

WE THE PEOPLE 13

## Differentiating Instruction

At Level

Standard English Mastery

### English-Language Learners

#### Create a Glossary

1. Organize students into mixed-level groups.
2. Have students write glossary entries for the following terms: early Americans, Vikings, Spanish settlers, enslaved Africans. The

entries should briefly explain when and how each group came to the Americas, as well as the significance of each.

3. Ask volunteers to read their group's glossary entries to the class. **IS Verbal/Linguistic**

## Answers

### American Religious Liberties

1. Many early colonists came to America to escape religious persecution in their home countries. 2. Possible answer: Some colonists wished to establish their own religions, while others hoped to avoid the intolerance of the places they had fled.

Reading Time Lines in 1620

## Direct Teach

### Info to Know

**The Americans** Why don't the people of Brazil, Canada, or Mexico call themselves Americans? After all, they are residents of either North or South America just like citizens of the United States. The reason the term American is generally reserved for U.S. citizens is that the United States of America was the first independent country in the Western Hemisphere. By the time Mexico and the other countries achieved independence in the 1800s, the American label already had a specific meaning—a citizen of the United States of America.