

Faith, Freedom, Reform

Trace how religious liberty and revival movements shaped the United States.

8.25 "Culture. The student understands the impact of religion on the American way of life. The student is expected to: trace the development of religious freedom in the United States; describe religious influences on social movements..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three developments that expanded religious freedom. Circle the social movements linked to religious belief, and write 1 or 2 beside facts about the First and Second Great Awakenings.

Religion and Public Life

- ① Religious freedom developed unevenly in the colonies. Some colonies supported an established church with tax money, while others allowed more choice. People such as Roger Williams argued that government should not control a person's faith. After independence, Virginia's 1786 Statute for Religious Freedom helped end state support for a church there. The Constitution barred religious tests for federal office. These steps did not erase prejudice or restrictions everywhere, but they expanded the idea that belief and public citizenship could be separate.
- ② During the First Great Awakening of the 1730s and 1740s, preachers including Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield drew large crowds to revival meetings. Their emotional sermons stressed personal conversion, rather than reliance only on church leaders. The movement encouraged new denominations and gave ordinary people a stronger voice in religious life. During the Second Great Awakening, which grew in the early 1800s, revivals inspired many Americans to join voluntary groups. Some reformers connected faith to abolition, temperance, and efforts to improve prisons and schools.
- ③ The First Amendment, added to the Bill of Rights in 1791, says Congress may not establish a religion or prohibit the free exercise of religion. These guarantees helped create a nation with many faiths, as well as people with no religious affiliation. They also limit government power, so public officials cannot require a preferred belief. Americans still debate how these protections apply in public schools, workplaces, and public spaces. Courts often weigh religious liberty against other rights and government interests when conflicts arise.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two developments before the First Amendment expanded religious freedom, according to the passage?

2 How did the First Great Awakening change the role of ordinary people in religious life?

3 Name three reform efforts connected to the Second Great Awakening.

4 How do the two religious freedom guarantees in the First Amendment limit government power and affect American life?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A town council proposes giving tax money only to one religion's house of worship. Write exactly five sentences explaining whether the proposal fits the First Amendment, its likely effect on the town, and one connection to an earlier development or religious reform movement from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three developments that expanded religious freedom. Circle the social movements linked to religious belief, and write 1 or 2 beside facts about the First and Second Great Awakenings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two developments before the First Amendment expanded religious freedom, according to the passage?	Virginia's Statute for Religious Freedom helped end state support for a church, and the Constitution barred religious tests for federal office.
2	How did the First Great Awakening change the role of ordinary people in religious life?	Its focus on personal conversion encouraged new denominations and gave ordinary people a stronger voice in religious life.
3	Name three reform efforts connected to the Second Great Awakening.	Abolition, temperance, and efforts to improve prisons and schools.
4	How do the two religious freedom guarantees in the First Amendment limit government power and affect American life?	Government may not establish a religion or prohibit free exercise. These limits help support many faiths and people with no religious affiliation, while creating debates about schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The council should not use town taxes to support one religion's house of worship. The First Amendment prevents government from establishing a religion. This rule helps residents of different faiths, and residents with no religious affiliation, belong equally to the town. Earlier, Virginia ended state support for a church through its Statute for Religious Freedom. Religious groups can still organize voluntary reform efforts, as some did during the Second Great Awakening.

Accept responses that correctly apply the ban on establishment to the proposal and explain an effect on people with different beliefs. The historical connection may refer to Virginia's statute, the ban on religious tests, either Great Awakening, or a named reform movement.