

Handouts H–I Answer Keys

Handout H: William Penn–Faith, Not Force Answer Key

1. Answers will vary, but should be based on this text as well as on constitutional principles.
2. Answers will vary, but should be based on this text as well as on constitutional principles.

Handout I: Founders’ Views About Respect for Religious Beliefs Answer Key

3. In his letter, Washington says that “it is now no more that toleration is spoken of...” meaning that mere toleration of other religions is no longer enough. Toleration implies the superiority of one religion over another and Washington believes that America has progressed beyond that. The United States has “given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy.” The government of the United States requires only that its citizens “demean themselves as good citizens” in giving their support to the government.
4. No. Madison believes the government of Virginia must respect, and not merely tolerate, all religions. To tolerate a religion implies that one religion is superior to another, but Madison affirms the “equal title” of all.
5. Madison would have agreed that any of the Christian denominations should be free to worship as they would like. Likewise, he would have agree that members of any of the world’s major religions would have the right to practice freely. However, since the United State in the late eighteenth century was overwhelmingly theistic, it is doubtful that Madison would have given full respect to pagan religions.
6. Like people both then and now, Washington realized that an individual preference for a certain belief system is not incompatible with the idea that all belief systems be respected (and not merely tolerated).
7. Jefferson contemplates the First Amendment “with sovereign reverence” because he respects religious diversity and freedom of conscience and believes that the First Amendment will guarantee both in the United States.