

How did religious toleration develop in Colonial America?



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Do you know where these words are from?
Explain what they mean.

Growth of Toleration

- Colonies
 - Rhode Island
 - Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson -
 - Separation of Church and State
 - Freedom of religion for all
 - knowledge of scripture not necessary for salvation; challenged gender roles
 - Pennsylvania
 - William Penn
 - Quakers –
 - Freedom of Religion for all “believers”
- Growing Religious diversity by mid 1700s
 - Greater acceptance of differences



Religion in Colonial America, 1750

• Congregationalists	575,000
• Anglicans	500,000
• Presbyterians	410,000
• German Churches (inc. Lutheran)	200,000
• Dutch reformed	75,000
• Quakers	40,000
• Baptists	25,000
• Catholics	25,000
• Methodists	5,000
• Jews	2,000
• Total Church Membership	1,857,000
• Total Population	2,493,000

Touro Synagogue, Newport, RI

