

STUDENT HANDOUT 4

Tolerance and the First Amendment

Review the following questions before you read "Tolerance and The First Amendment" in *The First Amendment: America's Blueprint for Tolerance*. After you have finished reading the chapter, answer the questions. They should provide you with helpful background as you study the First Amendment.

1. Why did many of the early colonists leave England for America?
2. What was ironic about the actions of some of these early colonists toward others with different beliefs once they moved to America?
3. What was the Articles of Confederation? Why was it abandoned?
4. How did the Bill of Rights come into being? What is the main purpose of the Bill of Rights?
5. What is the process known as incorporation? How did incorporation expand the scope of the Bill of Rights?
6. What is the principle known as "state action"? How does state action limit the scope of the Bill of Rights?
7. Discuss in four or five sentences why, concerning rights of minorities and women, the First Amendment did not protect equality among the American people.
8. In your own words, discuss how you think the First Amendment can promote tolerance.