

## **Handout B: *Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments* by James Madison (1785)**

### **Answer Key**

1. The purpose was to oppose a Virginia tax that would support Christian ministers and teachers.
2. Madison believed that every person has the freedom of conscience, or right to exercise their religion, or no religion as he/she chooses and that no one should tell another how to practice religion.
3. Yes, Madison argued that if Christianity or any other religion is given precedence over another religion by the government, citizens would no longer be equal in their right to exercise the religion of their choice.
4. In *Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments*, Madison argued that the civil right to freedom of religion should be protected. He also argued that taxes should not be levied to support one particular religion over another. Each individual should determine how to spend his or her own money to support or not support a religious organization of his or her own choice.