

Reading 4

Religion in America

What do the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. law say about religion? Do public schools have religion classes? Can government money be used to support religion? Can a person be forced to do things against his religion?

[U.S. Constitution](#) First Amendment

Court cases that decided religious questions: [University of Virginia Freedom of Religion Page](#)

[Schempp](#) case--prayer and Bible reading as part of the school day

[one-line summaries](#) of court cases

What are the differences between Christian denominations?

[Religion in the United States](#) from Wikipedia

[Numbers of members](#) in the U.S. As the article explains, it's difficult to compare numbers because different churches define "membership" differently.

Where are they? Some of the largest Christian denominations are found especially in some regions. [See the map.](#)

Two short, simple pages to explain the [Catholic](#) beliefs and [Protestant](#) beliefs.

Evangelical Christian groups are growing. How do we define evangelical?

This is an opinion article, but it states important [historical trends](#) simply. There are some parts you can skip--Skip "The Early Church" to "Missionaries to Russia." Start again at the 1054 split.

Wikipedia [Religious History of the United States](#) is most interesting for its discussion of the religions followed in different colonies.

What's the Difference? article [comparing Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian beliefs and practices](#) note: dates from 1965

Comparison of the [practices of 9 Christian denominations](#) at religionfacts.com . See also the [Beliefs](#) section on the same page.

Web page of the [Brethren Church](#). See sections on the right for more information.

Higher Education in America

[The Measure of Learning](#) U.S. News March 4, 2007

[The Undergraduate Experience](#) article from U.S. Department of State website

[Independent Colleges](#) article from the U.S. Department of State website

[Educational Attainment in the U.S.](#) from Wikipedia

The American Worker

[Social Security: A Snapshot](#) -- a U.S. government publication that explains the social security system

[The Future of Social Security](#) -- another U.S. government publication. This one explains different arguments about possible financial problems as the Baby Boom generation retires.

Yes, you like the job, but what are the benefits? Some examples of employee benefits: [QuickTrip](#) convenience stores, [google](#), [Georgia Tech](#),

[Retirement is a State, not a Date](#) -- a study of life after retirement

[Household income in the U.S.](#) -- Wikipedia article

[Who works for the minimum wage?](#) -- article supporting the minimum wage increase that was voted in late 2006

[Low wage work in the U.S.](#) -- article by the [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#) in partnership with [Inclusion](#)

[U.S. laws on discrimination](#) -- page from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforces federal laws against discrimination in employment

[An Aging Workforce's Effect on U.S. Employers](#) -- article from Forbes magazine online

[U.S. Census Bureau statistics on the U.S. population](#) -- How many Americans are over 65? Are in the baby boom generation? Are

[Generation Y Joins the Workforce](#) USA Today

[Mentoring the New Generations](#) -- What you need to know if you are a boss or supervisor of workers from Generation X and the Millennial Generation

[Recruiting and Employing Workers from the Millennial Generation](#) -- article from Emory University

[The New 65](#) Slate article on the Social Security crisis

Marriage American Style

[The percentage of Americans who are married is declining](#), Washington Post, March, 2007

[Facing middle age with no degree and no wife](#) NY Times August 6, 2006

American wedding customs: [The Bride](#) from Wikipedia. Don't forget to read the sections on the other members of the wedding party: the groom, the bridesmaids, etc.

U.S. News articles

[Home on the Range](#) and other American folk and old-timey American songs (midi files, not lyrics)

My Antonia Summer 2005

History and Culture

Nebraska Studies: history, excellent timeline and explanation of the Homestead Act, the Kansas-Nebraska Act

<http://www.nebraskastudies.org/>

Red Cloud, Nebraska

http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/search_frame.html

Nebraska map with counties (Red Cloud is in Webster County.)

http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/search_frame.html

A Nebraska sod house, 1886

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/photos/digital/newlook.htm>

Another sod house

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/images/lib-arch/research/photos/imagelab/10358.jpg>

photograph collection from Nebraska Historical Society

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/photos/highlite/index.htm>

U.S. Library of Congress American Memory Project--settling of the Plains

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/nbhihtml/pshome.html>

prairies of the world

<http://www.gpnc.org/prairies.htm>

relief map of Nebraska

<http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/maps1/ne.gif>

[photos of the Great Plains](#)

<http://www.greatmirror.com/index.cfm?navid=447&pictureize=medium>

[Great Plains definition](#)

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/G/GreatP11a.asp>

[art image of the prairie](#)

<http://www.unl.edu/plains/gallery/currentexhibits.html>

[children's page on the states--Nebraska](#)

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/nebraska/>

[everything about Nebraska in a few sentences](#)

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/usstates/ne.htm>

Cultural references in My Antonia

[Jesse James](#)

<http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/history/jessejames.cfm>

[fraternal organizations](#)

<http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/history/jessejames.cfm>

<http://www.mooseintl.org/public/default.aspx>

[prairie dog](#)

<http://images.google.com/images?svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&q=prairie+dog>

Willa Cather

[Willa Cather Center](#)

<http://www.willacather.org/>

[Willa Cather Studies Page at Gustavus Adolphus College--includes *Willa Cather Studies* journal](#)

<http://www.gustavus.edu/oncampus/academics/english/cather/>