**RELIGION IN THE COLONIES**

**Historical Thinking Skill ~ Adding Meaning to Facts by Categorization**

One of the most basic, but important, historical skills is the ability to see how facts fit together with each other. Grouping information together with similar data allows you to see relationships and to create meaning as you develop support for historical arguments. Too often, we learn pieces of information in isolation and fail to see how they are connected with other data to develop generalizations and hypotheses about historical topics.

To demonstrate this skill, look at the following question.

**“How did religious beliefs affect the development of the colonies from 1607 to 1763?”**

Consider the Maryland Act of Toleration and decide which of the following three categories the Act best fits: Promoted Religious Diversity, Represented Established Religion, or Directly Challenged Religious Practices.

The Maryland Act of Toleration gave religious freedom to all Christian groups in Maryland, and would best fit the category of Promoted Religious Diversity.

Look at the following list of terms and place each of them in one of the following three categories.

1. Act of Toleration
2. Anne Hutchinson
3. Jonathan Edwards
4. Quakers
5. First Great Awakening
6. Anglican Church
7. William Penn
8. Halfway Covenant
9. Roger Williams
10. Congregational Church

Be prepared to defend each of your choices of category. Could some of the people/events fit in more than one category? After we have agreed on the placements, look at the original question and discuss it with the class.

**Promoted Religious Diversity**

**Represented Established Religion**

**Directly Challenged Religious Practices**

* Act of Toleration

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**Promoted Religious Diversity**

* Act of Toleration: gave religious freedom to all Christian groups in MD
* Anne Hutchinson =
* Jonathan Edwards
* Great Awakening
* Quakers: broke away any formed their own colony in Pennsylvania
* William Penn: as a quaker he established Pennsylvania and promoted religious diversity.

**Represented Established Religion**

* Congregational Church: is the Puritan church in the colonies
* Anglican Church
* Act of Toleration: when it was repealed in reinforced Christian religions and excluded Catholics and Jews

**Directly Challenged Religious Practices**

* Anne Hutchinson
* Jonathan Edwards
* Great Awakening
* Halfway Covenant