We the People

The Religious Foundation of America

1 9 of the original 13 states required "religious test" to serve in government at the time of their founding.

2 In 1776, over 98% of colonists identified as Christian, mostly Protestant. The New England Primer, used for over 100 years, taught reading through Bible verses.

3 George Washington spoke often of Providence and encouraged public days of prayer and John Adams said the Constitution was made for a "moral and religious people."

4 Even in states without religious tests, laws reflected Christian norms: Sabbath Laws, Blasphemy Laws, Marriage defined through Christian tradition, and Oaths sworn "so help me God."

5 All of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence believed in God (56 of 56 signers).

6 The Declaration of Independence states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

1776