Religion and Social Movements

Objective:
1) Introduce students to the study of religion and social movements
2) Acquaint students with examples of religious social movements
3) Familiarize students with online research tools

Activity:
Examine how many Americans expressed their opinion or supported a cause by joining a protest rally or march, boycotted a product, signed a petition, contacted an elected official, or contributed money, as well as the socio-demographic characteristics of those who have participated in any of these actions

Explore how many Americans report that their congregation took part in an anti-abortion rally or a Pro-choice rally and the socio-demographic characteristics of those who report their congregation taking part

As a class, examine the number of Americans that identify as a part of the “Religious Right” and the socio-demographic characteristics of those individuals

In groups, pick 2-3 social movements to read about on the Social Movements and Religion Interactive Timeline and identify how religion affected social movements

Assessment:
Direct students to utilize pertinent portions the Congregation Observation Tool located in the Teacher Sharing Center in the Learning Resources section of The Learning Center on The ARDA to observe a local meeting of individuals who belong to a larger social movement. Possibilities include Pro-Life or Pro-Choice groups, a political-religious group, or a group focused on gender or sexual equality.

Suggested readings:


