

The Establishment of Religions

Notes-Social Studies

- On Saturday or Sunday most Bahamians attend church.
- Many belong to a Christian denomination. A denomination means religious group.
- Here in The Bahamas, we have Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics, The Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Adventists

The Anglican Church

- Early settlers came to The Bahamas to worship freely.
- In 1670 the settlers built a church called Christ Church.
- In 1684 the church was destroyed by the Spaniards.
- In 1695 the second Christ Church was built by Governor Trott.



○ **St. Matthew's Church**

- Is the 3rd oldest place of worship on the island of New Providence.
- When more people came to Nassau in 1799 the British government donated money for a new church to be built.
- The first church service was held on July 18, 1802.

The Baptist Church

- The Baptists have the largest number of followers in The Bahamas today.
- The first Baptist church was founded by a man named Prince William. He was a slave from America. He and another slave Sharper Morris escaped from Florida by boat.
- Most black people in the Bahamas were slaves at the time and in order to obtain their freedom they had to pay 90 pounds to the government.
- On August 1st 1790 the ground breaking ceremony for Bethel Baptist Meeting house was held.
- Bethel Baptist Church is still on the original site on Meeting street.



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

- The word Kirk means church in Scotland.
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk foundation was laid on August 7th 1810.
- St. Andrew's is the second oldest church building on the island of New Providence.

Rastafarians

- Rastafarians is not only a religion but a way of life that originated from Jamaica.
- After a performance by Bob Marley in the late 1970s the movement began to grow in The Bahamas.
- Rastas believe that Ras Tafari is God and that black people can find salvation by going back to Africa. They refer to their God as Jah.



Muslims

- The Muslim belief comes from the religion of Islam.
- The Muslim religion was first actively introduced in the Bahamas in the 1970s.
- They believe in one God who they call Allah, and Mohammed is their prophet. Their place of worship is called a Mosque, and their holy book is called the Qur'an.
- Women and men worship separately and to the women always have their heads covered.

