

## Civil Disobedience Comprehension Questions

1. How would you characterize the tone of Thoreau's address? Is he chastising his audience? Is he praising it? What opinion do you think he has of his audience?
2. Explain what Thoreau means when he says, "But a government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice, even as far as men understand it."
3. How is injustice "part of the necessary friction of the machine of government?"
4. How might Thoreau view the responsibility of the majority to a minority within the sphere of government?
6. Thoreau relies on analogy throughout his essay. Choose one analogy and explain why you think it is or is not effective.
7. Thoreau insists "law never made men a whit more just." Explain his beliefs on the role of the conscience in public life.
8. How would Thoreau answer his own question about how we should treat unjust laws?