

# Virginia and the New Nation - Study Guide

After the American victory during the Revolutionary War, the new American nation had to be established. Virginia had an important role in this process: the actions and ideas of some Virginians helped form the basis for the new constitutional government of the United States of America.

## Important Virginians:

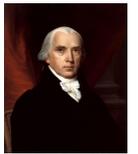
### George Washington, the "Father of Our Country"

- he was elected the first President of the United States
- he provided the country strong leadership and served as a model of leadership for future presidents



### James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution"

- he believed in the importance of having a United States constitution
- he kept detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention
- he was skilled at compromise, and he helped delegates (representatives) reach an agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America



## Important Documents:

### United States Constitution

- set up the United States government
- created the laws for the government and the people



Two other important documents, both written by Virginians, focused on protecting people's rights. Key ideas from these documents are included in the Constitution in the "Bill of Rights."

| Name of Document                           | Author           | What It Stated   |
|--|------------------|--|
| The Virginia Declaration of Rights         | George Mason     | All Virginians have many rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press. |
| The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom | Thomas Jefferson | All people should be free to worship as they please (freedom of religion).               |

freedom of religion = being free to go to any church you want



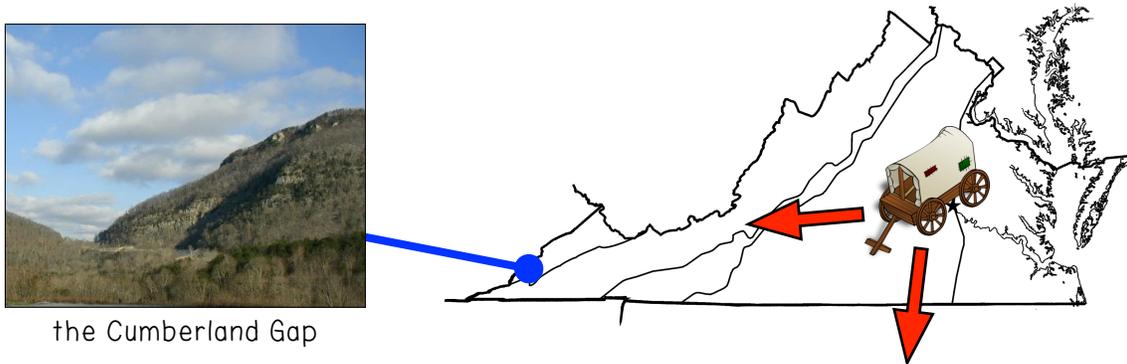
freedom of the press = being free to print/publish anything you want



## Changes After the American Revolution:

For many years, Virginia's economy had been dependent on agriculture. After the American Revolution, however, the agricultural base began to change. As a result, many Virginians moved toward and beyond the borders of Virginia.

Tobacco farming was hard on the soil. It used up many of the nutrients, causing many farmers to need new land to farm. Large numbers of Virginians migrated, or moved, to the western territories, looking for large areas of land to farm as well as new opportunities. As they migrated westward, they crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap.



Other Virginians migrated to new lands in the "Deep South" (the southernmost states) as they looked for better farmland and opportunities.

Wherever Virginians moved, they took with them their traditions, ideas, and cultures.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Nation Review

**Directions:** Use the names in the box to complete #1-6. Hint: some names are used more than once.

Thomas Jefferson

James Madison

George Mason

George Washington

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the "Father of the Constitution."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ provided the country strong leadership when he served as the first President of the United States.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the "Father of Our Country."
6. \_\_\_\_\_ took detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention.

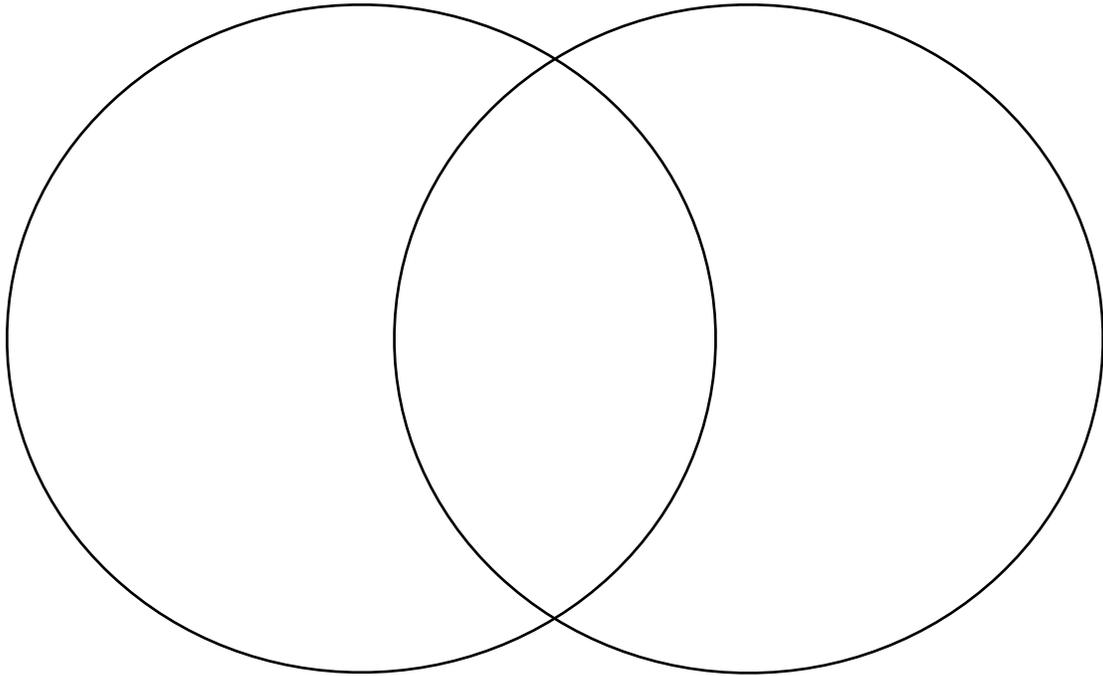
**Directions:** Write your answers to the questions below.

7. Explain how the "Father of the Constitution" earned this nickname.
8. What right was protected by the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?
9. What rights were protected by the Virginia Declaration of Rights?

10. Complete the Venn diagram.

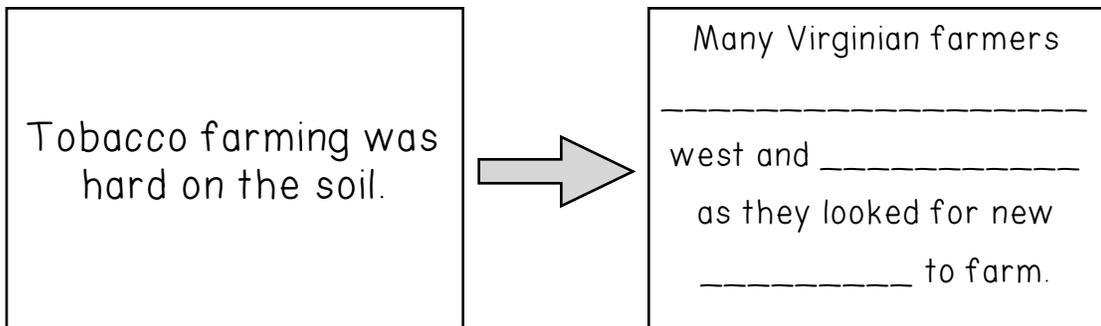
The Virginia Declaration of Rights

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom



11. What term best describes the movement of people from one place to another?

12. Complete the cause-and-effect chart below.



13. Describe the path Virginians took as they traveled west to look for better opportunities.

14. As Virginians migrated, what did they take with them?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Nation Review - ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** Use the names in the box to complete #1-6. Hint: some names are used more than once.

Thomas Jefferson

James Madison

George Mason

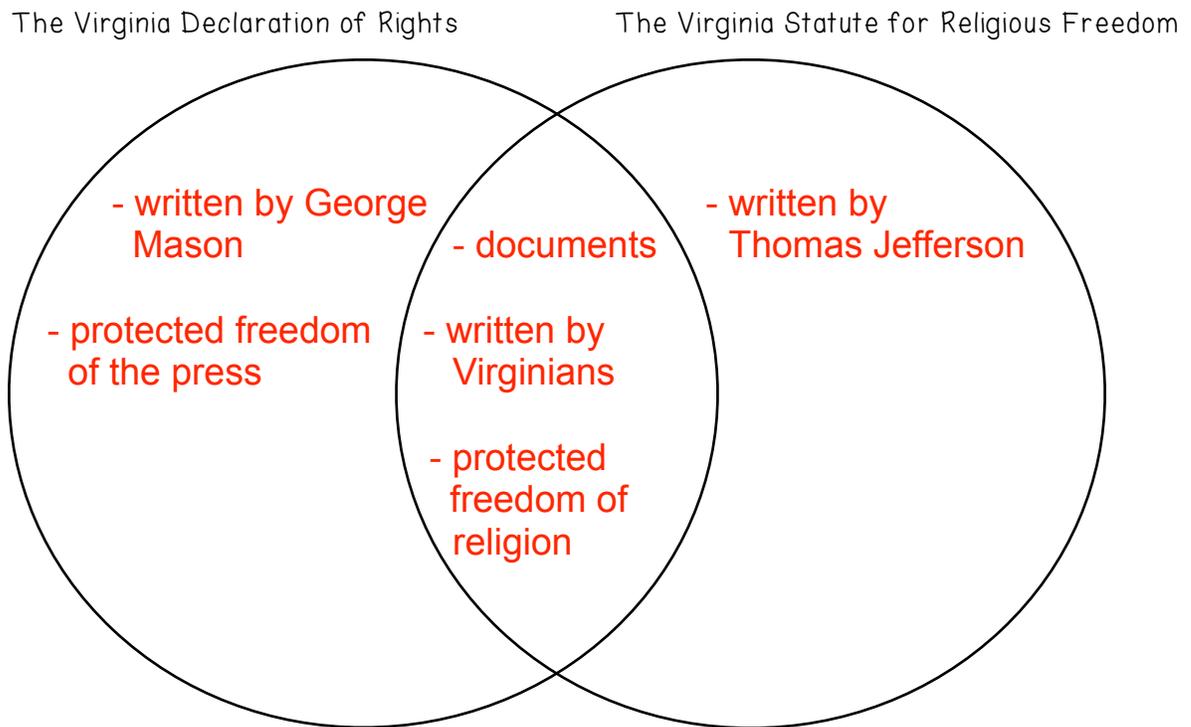
George Washington

1. **James Madison** \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the "Father of the Constitution."
2. **Thomas Jefferson** \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.
3. **George Washington** \_\_\_\_\_ provided the country strong leadership when he served as the first President of the United States.
4. **George Mason** \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.
5. **George Washington** \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the "Father of Our Country."
6. **James Madison** \_\_\_\_\_ took detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention.

**Directions:** Write your answers to the questions below.

7. Explain how the "Father of the Constitution" earned this nickname.  
**James Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution" because he was very involved with its writing. He believed in its importance and took detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention. When delegates argued, he helped them compromise so they could finish writing the Constitution.**
8. What right was protected by the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?  
**the freedom to worship as you please**
9. What rights were protected by the Virginia Declaration of Rights?  
**freedom of religion and freedom of the press**

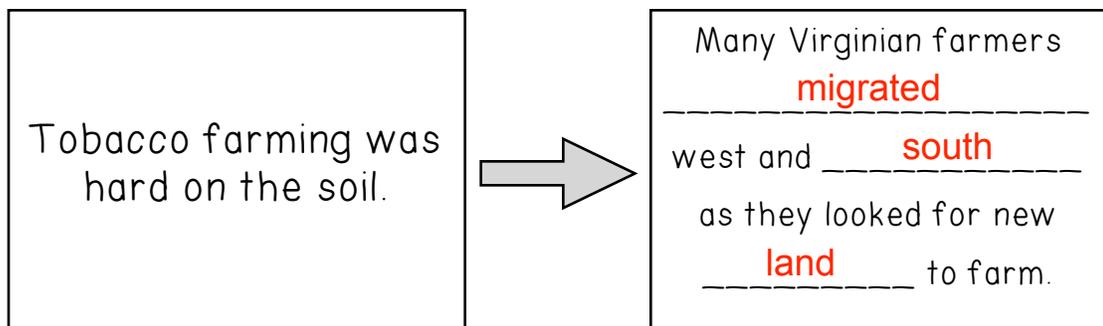
10. Complete the Venn diagram.



11. What term best describes the movement of people from one place to another?

**migration**

12. Complete the cause-and-effect chart below.



13. Describe the path Virginians took as they traveled west to look for better opportunities.

**As Virginians migrated westward, they crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap.**

14. As Virginians migrated, what did they take with them?

**They took with them their traditions, ideas, and cultures.**

## Terms of Use:

Thank you for downloading this New Nation (VS.6) Study Guide and Review Worksheet! I hope that you find these pages to be useful resources.

I'd love to hear your feedback! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

\*\*\*

This product is for one teacher's use only. If a colleague is interested in using any of these pages, please refer him/her to my TpT store.

Please do not alter this product in any way or post/resell any part of this product.

## Image Credits:

[www.mycutegraphics.com](http://www.mycutegraphics.com)

## Fonts & Frames By:



Lovin' Lit  
The Learning Tree



## Happy Teaching!

Alyssa Bradley ~ [TpT store: Alyssa Teaches](#)