

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"

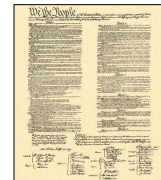
- he believed in the importance of having a United States constitution
- he kept detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention
- he was skilled at compromise, and he helped delegates (representatives) reach an agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States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



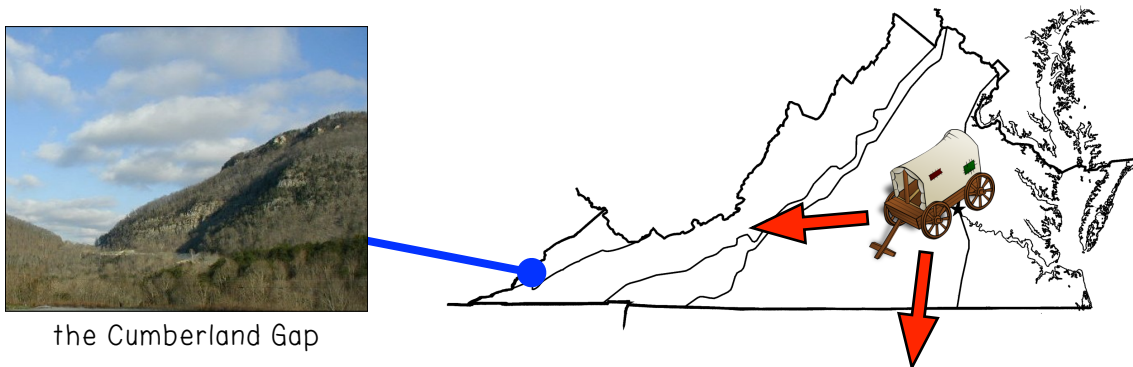
freedom of the press = being free to print/publish anything you want



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.



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.

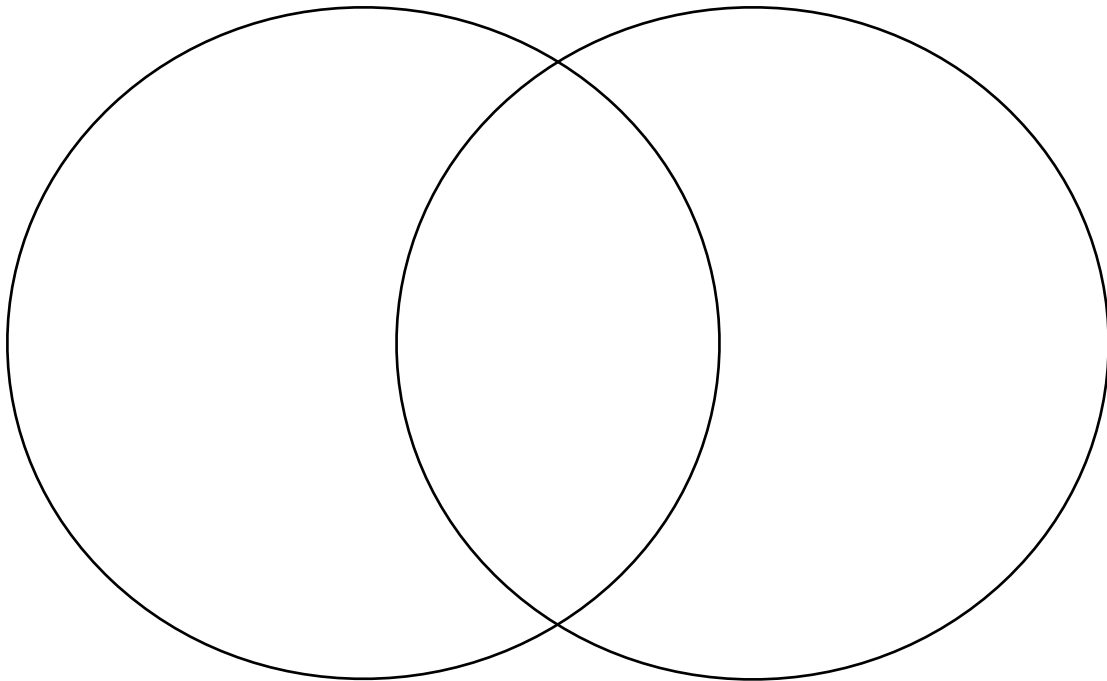
Directions: Write your answers to the questions below.

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.

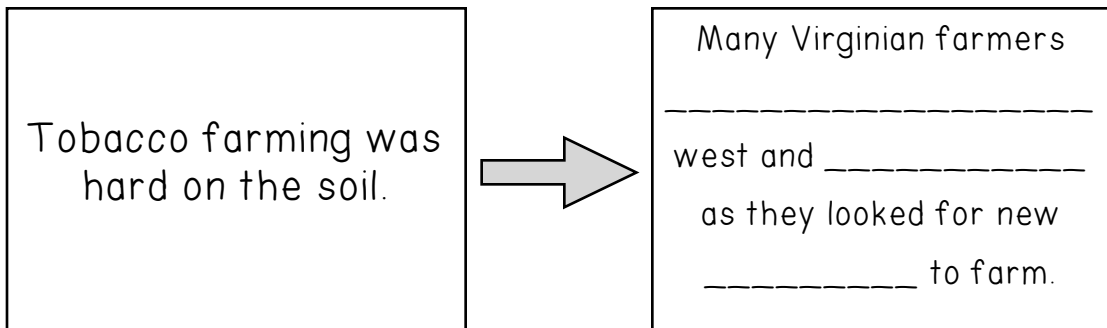
The Virginia Declaration of Rights

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

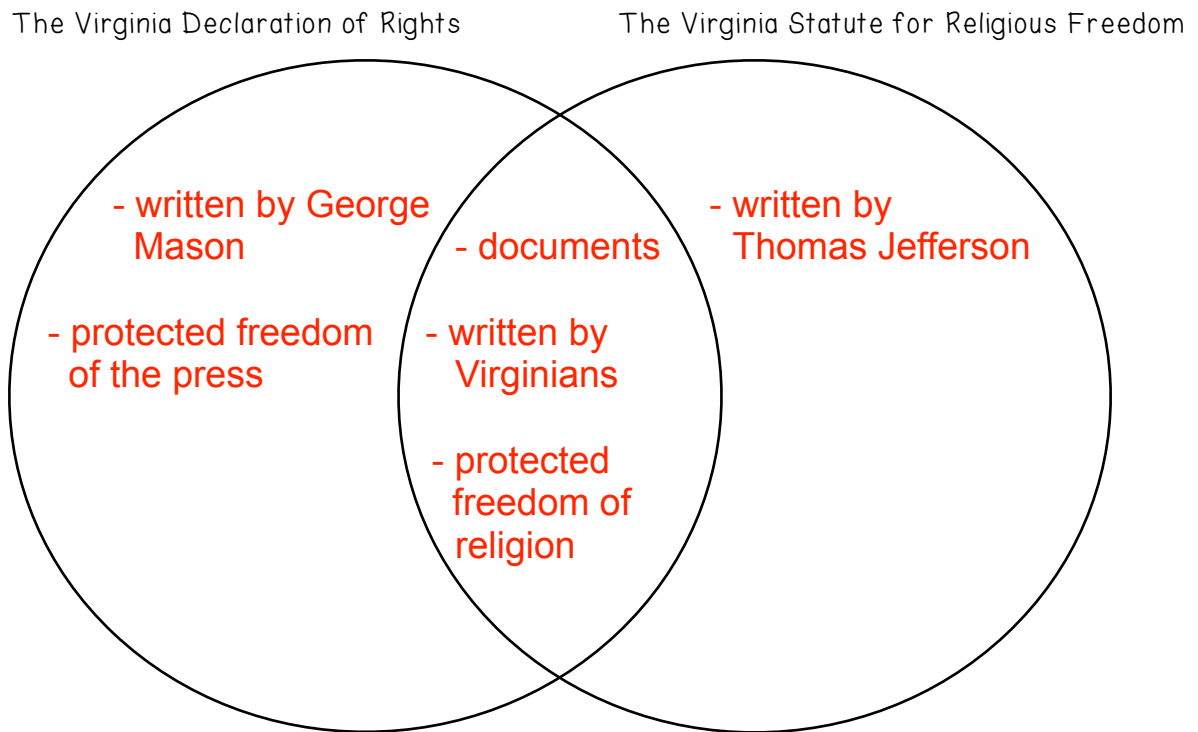
George Washington

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

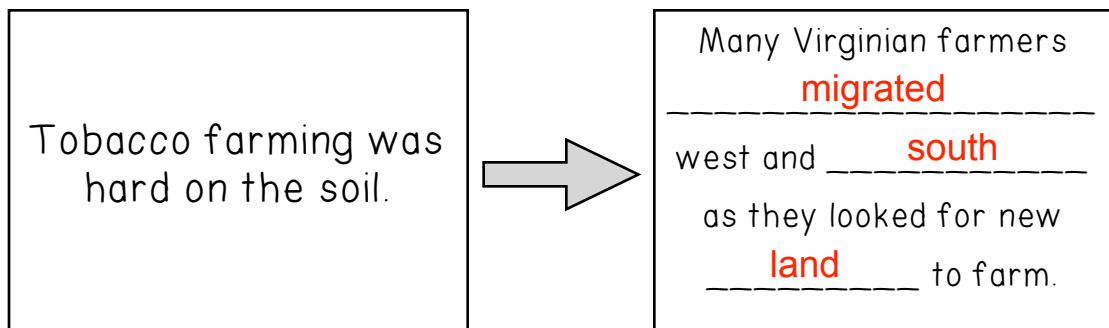
10. Complete the Venn diagram.



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.

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