

Virginia Studies  
STANDARD VS.6a-c  
STUDY GUIDE

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STANDARD VS.6A  
WASHINGTON, MADISON

George Washington is called the “Father of Our Country” and James Madison is called the “Father of the Constitution.”

The actions and ideas of Virginians formed the basis for the new constitutional government of the United States.

*Why is George Washington referred to as the “Father of Our Country?”*



George Washington, a Virginian, was elected as the **first President** of the United States of America. He provided the **strong leadership** needed to help the young country and provided a model of leadership for future presidents. Thus, he is often called the “**Father of Our Country.**”

*Why is James Madison referred to as the “Father of the Constitution?”*



**James Madison**, a Virginian, believed in the importance of having a United States **constitution**. He kept **detailed notes** during the Constitutional Convention. His skills at **compromise** helped the delegates reach agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America. This earned him the title “**Father of the Constitution.**”

STANDARD VS.6B  
MASON, JEFFERSON

The ideas of George Mason and Thomas Jefferson as expressed in the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

Ideas expressed in the **Virginia Declaration of Rights** and the **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom** served as **models for the Bill of Rights** of the Constitution of the United States of America.

*What was the influence of the Virginia Declaration of Rights on the Constitution of the United States of America?*



The Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by **George Mason**, states that all Virginians **should have many rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press.**

*What was the influence of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on the Constitution of the United States of America?*

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, written by **Thomas Jefferson**, states that all people **should be free to worship as they please.**



## STANDARD VS.6c

### MIGRATION WEST

The influence of geography on the migration of Virginians into western territories.

*What geographic factors influenced Virginians to move to the western frontier of Virginia and beyond?*

**Geography** influenced the movement of people and ideas as Virginians moved to and beyond the Virginia frontier.

After the American Revolution, Virginia's **agricultural base** began to change, and as a result large numbers of Virginians moved west and to the deep South to find **better farmland** and **new opportunities**.

- **Tobacco farming** was **hard on the soil**, causing many farmers to look west and south for new land to farm.
- Virginians migrated into western territories looking for **large areas of land** and new opportunities.
- As Virginians moved, they took their traditions, ideas, and **cultures** with them.
- Settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the **Cumberland Gap** as they migrated to new lands in the west.

