

Virginia Fights Forward

Read how Virginia helped lead the fight for independence.

VS.5 "The student will apply history and social science skills to explain Virginia and Virginians' role during the American Revolution by explaining the principles and events that convinced the colonists to declare independence and go to war..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ideas or events that pushed colonists toward independence. Circle the names of people or groups who helped during the war, then write 1 beside the capital-move reason and 2 beside the Yorktown importance.

Virginia in the Revolution

- ① During the 1760s and 1770s, Britain taxed the colonies, including Virginia, but colonists had no representatives in Parliament. Many believed this violated their rights. After protests and harsh British laws, fighting began at Lexington and Concord. In 1776, Virginians supported declaring independence. The Declaration of Independence said people have rights, governments need the consent of the governed, and people may change an unfair government.
- ② Virginia leaders and residents helped in many ways. George Washington led the Continental Army. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration. George Mason's ideas about rights influenced other leaders, and James Madison served Virginia's government during the war. James Armistead Lafayette, an enslaved Virginian, gathered information as a spy. Indigenous people chose different sides. Women ran homes and businesses, while free and enslaved Blacks served and sought freedom.
- ③ Virginia moved its capital from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1780. Williamsburg was near the coast and could be attacked by British ships. Richmond was farther inland and safer. In 1781, American and French forces trapped British General Cornwallis at Yorktown. His surrender helped end major fighting. The American victory showed that the new United States could win its independence from Great Britain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did British actions and the ideas in the Declaration of Independence lead colonists toward independence?

2 How did George Washington and James Armistead Lafayette help the American cause in different ways?

3 Why did Virginia move its capital from Williamsburg to Richmond?

4 Why was the American victory at Yorktown important?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how Virginia and Virginians helped the fight for independence. Include one event or principle, one leader, one other person or group, and the importance of Yorktown.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two ideas or events that pushed colonists toward independence. Circle the names of people or groups who helped during the war, then write 1 beside the capital-move reason and 2 beside the Yorktown importance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did British actions and the ideas in the Declaration of Independence lead colonists toward independence?	British taxes without representation and harsh laws made colonists think their rights were violated. The Declaration said people have rights, governments need consent, and people may change an unfair government.
2	How did George Washington and James Armistead Lafayette help the American cause in different ways?	Washington led the Continental Army. James Armistead Lafayette gathered information as a spy.
3	Why did Virginia move its capital from Williamsburg to Richmond?	Williamsburg was near the coast and could be attacked by British ships. Richmond was farther inland and safer.
4	Why was the American victory at Yorktown important?	Cornwallis surrendered, which helped end major fighting and showed that the United States could win independence from Great Britain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Virginia colonists objected to taxes because they had no representatives in Parliament, and the Declaration said government needs consent of the governed. George Washington led the Continental Army. James Armistead Lafayette gathered information as a spy, and women ran homes and businesses during the war. At Yorktown, Cornwallis surrendered, helping end major fighting and showing the United States could win independence.

Accept equivalent explanations that use the passage accurately. For the open response, check for all four required parts and a clear connection to Virginia's role in independence.