

Three Founding Roles

Read how three leaders helped shape the United States.

VS.6.a “explaining the roles of George Washington (known as the “Father of Our Country”), James Madison (known as the “Father of the Constitution”), and Patrick Henry (known for his “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech);”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline an action that shows how the leader helped the colonies or nation. Then circle the name or words Americans use to remember that leader's role.

Leaders of a New Nation

- ① In March 1775, Patrick Henry spoke at the Second Virginia Convention. Britain had placed unfair rules on the colonies, and many people were deciding what to do. Henry urged Virginia to prepare its militia to defend liberty. He ended with the words, “Give me liberty or give me death!” His bold speech encouraged colonists to stand up for freedom.
- ② George Washington commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He kept soldiers working together through hard winters, short supplies, and long battles. After the colonies won independence, Washington became the first president of the United States. He showed how a president could serve the new nation and then leave office peacefully. Americans call him the Father of Our Country.
- ③ James Madison was a leader at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He came prepared with ideas about how the new government should work. Madison helped shape the Constitution, took detailed notes about the meetings, and later supported its approval. His important work in creating and defending the Constitution led Americans to call him the Father of the Constitution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Patrick Henry urge Virginia to do?

2 How did Patrick Henry's speech help the colonists?

3 Give two ways George Washington helped the new nation.

4 Why is James Madison called the Father of the Constitution?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three one-sentence museum labels, one for Patrick Henry, George Washington, and James Madison. In each label, name the leader and explain how that person's actions helped the colonies or the new nation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline an action that shows how the leader helped the colonies or nation. Then circle the name or words Americans use to remember that leader's role. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Patrick Henry urge Virginia to do?	He urged Virginia to prepare its militia to defend liberty.
2	How did Patrick Henry's speech help the colonists?	His bold speech encouraged colonists to stand up for freedom.
3	Give two ways George Washington helped the new nation.	He commanded the Continental Army, became the first president, and showed that a president could leave office peacefully. Accept any two.
4	Why is James Madison called the Father of the Constitution?	He helped shape the Constitution, kept detailed convention notes, and supported its approval. His important work creating and defending it earned the name.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Patrick Henry urged Virginians to prepare to defend liberty, and his liberty speech encouraged colonists to stand up for freedom. George Washington led the Continental Army and served as the first president, so Americans call him the Father of Our Country. James Madison helped shape and defend the Constitution, so he is called the Father of the Constitution.

Accept accurate explanations of each leader's distinct role, using the passage's details in the student's own words. For the open task, each sentence should correctly match one leader with a contribution to independence, the new government, or the Constitution.