

Virginia Ideas Travel

Trace Virginia principles into later founding documents.

VS.6.c “describing how principles of these founding Virginia documents inspired the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of Virginia, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how a Virginia founding document influenced a later document. In the margin, write D for the Declaration of Independence, V for the Constitution of Virginia, U for the Constitution of the United States, or B for the Bill of Rights.

Ideas That Shaped a Nation

- ① In 1776, Virginians wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, mainly drafted by George Mason. It said people have inherent rights, such as life and liberty. It also said government gets its power from the people and should work for the common good. The declaration called for separate legislative, executive, and judicial powers. In 1786, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom protected each person's right to hold religious beliefs.
- ② These ideas traveled beyond Virginia. The Declaration of Independence used two Virginia ideas: people have rights, and government gets its just powers from the consent of the governed. Virginia's 1776 Constitution used the declaration's idea of separated powers. It created legislative, executive, and judicial parts of state government, helping prevent one group from holding all power in Virginia.
- ③ The Constitution of the United States also divided government power among three branches, reflecting the Virginia Declaration of Rights. The United States Bill of Rights added protections for freedoms, including religion. Its First Amendment reflected the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. The statute protected religious beliefs and opposed forcing people to support or attend a church. These later documents used Virginia principles to limit government and protect people's rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which two Virginia ideas did the Declaration of Independence use?

2 How did the Constitution of Virginia use the idea of separated powers?

3 What idea from the Virginia Declaration of Rights is reflected in the Constitution of the United States?

4 How did the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influence the Bill of Rights?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one founding Virginia document and one later founding document from the passage. Write two sentences that name a Virginia principle and explain how the later document used it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how a Virginia founding document influenced a later document. In the margin, write D for the Declaration of Independence, V for the Constitution of Virginia, U for the Constitution of the United States, or B for the Bill of Rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two Virginia ideas did the Declaration of Independence use?	People have rights, and government gets its just powers from the consent of the governed.
2	How did the Constitution of Virginia use the idea of separated powers?	It created legislative, executive, and judicial parts of state government.
3	What idea from the Virginia Declaration of Rights is reflected in the Constitution of the United States?	Government power is divided among three branches.
4	How did the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influence the Bill of Rights?	It influenced the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Virginia Declaration of Rights said that government gets power from the people. The Declaration of Independence repeated this idea by saying governments have just powers from the consent of the governed.

Accept connections supported by the passage, including rights and consent of the governed, separated powers, or religious freedom. In the open response, accept any accurate Virginia-document-to-later-document connection with a clear explanation.