

Virginia Shapes Nation

Trace how Virginia leaders, ideas, and events influenced a growing country.

VS.6 “The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the establishment and growth of the new American nation with emphasis on the role of Virginians and events in Virginia during the 18th and 19th centuries by explaining the...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells a cause, and circle the effect phrase or clause it leads to. Write the same number beside each matched cause-and-effect pair.

Ideas, Movement, and Change

- ① During the fight for independence, Virginians helped lead the new nation. Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty, or give me death!” speech urged resistance to British rule. George Washington commanded the Continental Army and later became the first president, so he is called the Father of Our Country. James Madison helped shape the United States Constitution, earning the name Father of the Constitution. These leaders worked at different times to build and protect the country.
- ② Virginia’s founding documents shared ideas about rights and freedom. George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which said people have basic rights and government should serve them. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, protecting people’s right to choose their religion. These principles inspired the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia and United States Constitutions, and the Bill of Rights.
- ③ Mountains and rivers could slow western travel, but rivers also carried goods. Roads, canals, and steamboats made moving west easier. In 1831, Nat Turner, an enslaved preacher in Southampton County, led a rebellion. Slavery’s cruelty and denial of freedom, plus Turner’s belief that God called him to act, led him and others to fight. They killed about 55 white people before militia stopped them. Turner was executed, and Virginia passed harsher laws controlling Black people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Patrick Henry, George Washington, and James Madison each help the new nation?

2 How did the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influence later documents?

3 What geographical features could slow western travel, and what advances made moving west easier?

4 Name one cause of Nat Turner's Rebellion. Then describe what happened and one result of the rebellion.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label called "Virginia Shapes a Nation." Connect one Virginia founding document to one later national document. Then explain one cause-and-effect link about western movement or Nat Turner's Rebellion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells a cause, and circle the effect phrase or clause it leads to. Write the same number beside each matched cause-and-effect pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Patrick Henry, George Washington, and James Madison each help the new nation?	Henry urged resistance to British rule. Washington commanded the Continental Army and became the first president. Madison helped shape the United States Constitution.
2	How did the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influence later documents?	Their ideas about rights, government serving people, and religious freedom inspired the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia and United States Constitutions, and the Bill of Rights.
3	What geographical features could slow western travel, and what advances made moving west easier?	Mountains and rivers could slow travel. Roads, canals, and steamboats made moving west easier.
4	Name one cause of Nat Turner's Rebellion. Then describe what happened and one result of the rebellion.	A cause was slavery's cruelty and denial of freedom, or Turner's belief that God called him to act. Turner and others killed about 55 white people before militia stopped them. Turner was executed, and Virginia passed harsher laws controlling Black people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Virginia Shapes a Nation George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Its idea that people have basic rights helped inspire the Bill of Rights. Roads, canals, and steamboats made western movement easier because they improved travel. Virginia ideas and new technology helped the nation grow.

Accept equivalent descriptions that are supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a correct Virginia document-to-later-document connection and a clear, accurate cause-and-effect explanation.