

Virginia Divides

Trace the disagreements and events that led to a new state.

VS.7.d "explaining major events and issues that divided Virginians and led to secession, war, and the creation of West Virginia;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the three bold event names. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside them in the order they happened to trace Virginia's path to secession.

A State Pulled Apart

- ① Before the Civil War, Virginians argued about slavery and the Union. Many eastern planters supported slavery and feared that a stronger federal government would limit it. Many people in western Virginia owned few or no enslaved people. They worried that eastern counties had more political power and that state money did not fairly support western roads, schools, and services.
- ② In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. After several Southern states left the Union, Virginia leaders met in a convention. On April 4, 1861, **Virginia's first convention vote** rejected secession. After Fort Sumter was attacked, Lincoln called for troops to keep the Union together. On April 17, **Virginia's second convention vote** approved secession. On May 23, **Virginia's secession referendum** supported that choice.
- ③ Many western Virginians did not want to leave the Union. Delegates met in Wheeling and formed a loyal government of Virginia. This government said it represented Virginia while the state government supported the Confederacy. It helped create a new state from the western counties. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia entered the Union as the 35th state. The division had led to secession, war, and a new state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two issues that divided Virginians before the Civil War.

2 What happened after Virginia's first convention vote but before its second convention vote?

3 Why did many western Virginians feel their region was treated unfairly?

4 How did the loyal government formed in Wheeling help lead to the creation of West Virginia?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that explain a cause-and-effect path from a dividing issue to West Virginia statehood. Include one dividing issue, a change in Virginia's decision about secession, and an action taken by western Virginians.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the three bold event names. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside them in the order they happened to trace Virginia's path to secession. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two issues that divided Virginians before the Civil War.	Answers may include slavery, whether to remain in the Union, eastern political power, or unfair state support for western roads, schools, and services.
2	What happened after Virginia's first convention vote but before its second convention vote?	Fort Sumter was attacked, and President Lincoln called for troops to keep the Union together.
3	Why did many western Virginians feel their region was treated unfairly?	They believed eastern counties had more political power and that state money did not fairly support western roads, schools, and services.
4	How did the loyal government formed in Wheeling help lead to the creation of West Virginia?	It claimed to represent Virginia while the state government supported the Confederacy, and it helped create a new state from the western counties.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Slavery and disagreement about leaving the Union divided Virginians. Virginia first rejected secession, but its second convention later approved it. Western Virginians formed a loyal government, helping lead to West Virginia joining the Union in 1863.

Accept any two passage-based dividing issues in Question 1, including slavery and whether Virginia should remain in the Union. For the open response, accept a clear three-sentence cause-and-effect explanation that includes all three required parts.