

# VS.6 VIRGINIA AND THE NEW NATION

## STANDARD VS.6A WASHINGTON, MADISON

George Washington is called the “Father of Our Country” and James Madison is called the “Father of the Constitution.”

*The actions and ideas of Virginians formed the basis for the new constitutional government of the United States.*

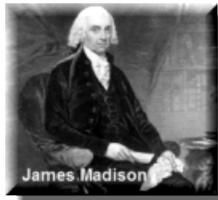
George Washington, a Virginian, was elected as the first President of the United States of America.

- He provided the **strong leadership** needed to help the young country and provided a **model of leadership** for future presidents.
- Thus, he is often called the “Father of Our Country.”



James Madison, a Virginian, believed in the importance of having a United States constitution. He kept detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention.

- His skills at **compromise** helped the delegates reach agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America.
- This earned him the title “Father of the Constitution.”



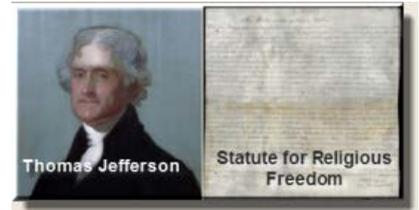
## STANDARD VS.6B MASON, JEFFERSON

*The Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom provided significant rights.*



The Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, states that all Virginians have many rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press.

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, written by Thomas Jefferson, states that all people should be free to worship as they please.



## STANDARD VS.6C MIGRATION WEST

*Geography influenced the movement of people and ideas as Virginians moved to and beyond the Virginia frontier.*

After the American Revolution, Virginia’s agricultural base began to change, and as a result large numbers of Virginians moved west and to the deep South to find better farmland and new opportunities.

- Tobacco farming was hard on the soil, causing many farmers to look west and south for new land to farm.
- The development of the cotton gin led to the opening of new lands in the south and attracted settlers from Virginia.
- The mechanical reaper allowed farmers to grow more wheat with fewer workers, which forced many Virginians to leave the state in search of jobs.
- Virginians migrated into western territories looking for large areas of land and new opportunities.
- As Virginians moved, they took their enslaved people, traditions, ideas, and cultures with them.
- Many enslaved African Americans were sold to people who lived in other southern states
- Settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap as they migrated to new lands in the west

