

Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **New Nation/Virginia Government Study Guide – ANSWER KEY**

**Standard VS.6a:** SWBAT explain why George Washington is called the “Father of Our Country” and James Madison is called the “Father of Our Constitution.”

### **Reasons why George Washington is called the “Father of Our Country”**

- A Virginian, who was elected as the **first** President of the United States.
- He provided strong leadership needed to help the young country.
- Provided a **model** of leadership for future presidents.

### **Reasons why James Madison is called the “Father of Our Constitution”**

- A Virginian, who believed in the importance of having a **US Constitution**
- He kept detailed notes during the **Constitutional Convention**
- His skills of **compromise** helped the delegates reach an agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America

**Standard VS.6b:** SWBAT identify the ideas of George Mason and Thomas Jefferson as expressed in the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

Many freedoms set up by the new government of the United States were located in a section of the U.S. Constitution known as the **Bill of Rights**. The ideas found in this document originated from two earlier Virginia documents.

### **Ideas of George Mason in the Virginia Declaration of Rights:**

- States that all Virginians have many rights including:
  - Freedom of **Religion**
  - Freedom of the **Press**
  - The Right to a **trial** by a **jury**

### **Ideas of Thomas Jefferson in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom**

- States that all people should be free to **worship** as they please.

**Standard VS.10a:** SWBAT identify the three branches of Virginia government and the function of each.

The government of Virginia is divided into **three** branches.

### **Legislative branch of the Virginia government**

- Called the **General Assembly**
- It is divided into two parts:
  - **Senate**
  - **House of Delegates**
- Makes state **laws**

### **Executive Branch of the Virginia government**

- Headed by the **governor**
- Includes the Lieutenant Governor
- Makes sure that state laws are **carried out.**

### **Judicial Branch of the Virginia government**

- State's **court system**
- Decides cases about
  - People **accused** of breaking the law
  - Whether or not a law agrees with **the Virginia Constitution**

**Standard VS.6c:** SWBAT explain the influence of geography on the migration of Virginians into western territories.

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**.
- Virginians migrated into western territories looking for large areas of **land** and new **opportunities**.
- As Virginians moved, they took their
  - **traditions** , **ideas**, **cultures**
- Settlers crossed the **Appalachian** Mountains through the **Cumberland Gap** as they migrated to new lands in the west.