Geography Influences the Movement of Virginians into Western Territories
Geography and the Movement Westward

- 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.
Geography and the Movement Westward

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

• Tobacco farming was hard on the soil.
  - it drains the soil of its nutrients.
  - after a few years, nothing will grow.

• This caused many farmers to look west and south for new land to farm.
Virginians Migrate Westward

- Virginians migrated into western territories looking for large areas of land and new opportunities.
- As Virginians moved, they took their traditions, ideas, and cultures with them.
The Cumberland Gap

- Settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap as they migrated to new lands in the west.
The Cumberland Gap

- The Cumberland Gap is a pass in the Appalachian Mountains where Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee meet.
The Wilderness Road

- Daniel Boone blazed the Wilderness Road through the gap.
- The Wilderness Road was an important pioneer road that passed through the Cumberland Gap.
The Louisiana Purchase

- President Thomas Jefferson purchased the land known as the **Louisiana Territory** from France in 1803.
- The land stretched west of the Mississippi River and included the busy port city of New Orleans.
- It cost just 15 million dollars. This doubled the size of the U.S.