

Nonfiction Review Assessment

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Virginia and the New American Nation

1 The first successful English settlement in North America was in Virginia. People of Virginia and their actions have shaped our nation as we know it today. Virginians were influential around the time of the Revolutionary War in forming our government.

2 The Revolutionary War began on April 19, 1775. There were many causes of the Revolutionary War. The main cause though, was the colonists, including Virginians, felt they deserved the same rights as the people of England.

However, the British government continued to treat the colonists poorly by passing many unfair acts and taxes. The colonists were being taxed without representation.

3 George Washington, the *Father of Our Country* and our first president, provided strong leadership before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. His leadership provided a model for future presidents. He is remembered for helping to develop the new American Nation. He was a general during the Revolutionary War and helped to win the war against England.

4 As the Revolutionary War progressed, many documents were written by Virginians. They wanted to write about the rights and freedom the people of Virginia should have. The *Virginia Declaration of Rights* was written by George Mason in June of 1776. This document outlined the rights of Virginians. Those rights included freedom of religion and freedom of the press. This document influenced other documents written for America including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In 1777, Thomas Jefferson drafted the *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*. This documents states that people should be free to worship how they please.

George Washington provided military leadership by serving as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

5 Both the *Virginia Declaration of Rights* and the *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom* influenced the writing of the Constitution of the United States. James Madison was a Virginian who grew up on a tobacco farm. He went to school to become a lawyer. Later, he became part of the Continental Congress. The Continental Congress consisted of representatives from the thirteen colonies. They worked to govern the states during the Revolutionary War. Madison worked hard to keep the colonies united. When the War was over, Madison felt the country needed a full constitution. He worked hard during the Constitutional Convention. He helped the delegates from the states write the Constitution which was signed in 1787. James Madison is often referred to as the "Father of the Constitution."

6 The beliefs and actions of Virginians such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, and James Madison all helped to shape the new American nation. Their beliefs built our government and provided all Americans with the freedoms we enjoy today.

1. What question does paragraph 2 answer? A. Who wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom? B. Who was a general during the Revolutionary War? C. Who is known as the "Father of the Constitution"? D. When did the Revolutionary War begin?	2. Which of these is the best summary of the article? A. George Washington was the "Father of Our Country," our first president, and a general. B. James Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution." C. Many people in Virginia helped to create our government and the American nation. D. There are many important people from Virginia.
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3. Complete the cause and effect chart.

The colonists were being taxed without representation.



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George Washington became the first president.

The Revolutionary War began in April of 1775.

George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.
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Thomas Jefferson wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.
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4. Complete these sentences.

Before the Revolutionary War, the colonists were with the treatment by the British government. George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Thomas Jefferson wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. James Madison was by these documents. He was to keep the colonies united by helping to write the Constitution of the United States.

5. Which heading would be best for paragraph 4?

- A. The End of the War
- B. Declaring Our Rights
- C. Our First Leader
- D. Believing in a Constitution

6. Based on the article, select **three** sentences that are correct.

George Mason was influenced by other documents when he wrote the Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson and George Mason cared about the rights of Virginians.

George Washington was the only Virginian to work to create the New American Nation.

The Constitution of the United States was influenced by the beliefs of Virginians.

The freedoms we enjoy today are due to the work of many Virginians.

7. The author most likely included paragraph 2 to –

- A. explain why Virginians cared about the rights and freedoms of people
- B. tell about who won the Revolutionary War
- C. inform readers of the documents written by Virginians about rights and freedoms
- D. share the dates of the start and end of the Revolutionary War

8. The author most likely wrote this article to –

- A. explain the causes of the Revolutionary War
- B. inform readers of how Virginians helped to shape our nation
- C. tell why taxation without representation was unfair for the colonists
- D. persuade readers to believe that George Washington was the most important Virginian

9. Which three words use the suffix **-ing** in the same way as it is used in the word **forming** in paragraph 1?

thinking
ring
bling
trying
stopping

10. Which of these happened last?

- A. George Washington was a general in the Revolutionary War.
- B. Thomas Jefferson wrote the *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*.
- C. The Constitution was written and signed.
- D. George Mason wrote the *Virginia Declaration of Rights*.