

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Virginia: Important to the American Revolutionary War**

The state of Virginia was an important part of the American Revolutionary War, and of establishing the new nation after Americans won the war. George Washington, the first President of the United States and Commander of the Continental Army that defeated the British, was born in Popes Creek, Virginia in 1732. George Washington presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which established the U.S. Constitution and the federal government. He has been called the "Father of His Country" for his leadership in the formative days of the new nation.

### **1) The state of Virginia was:**

- a) not important to the American Revolutionary War
- b) important to the American Revolutionary War

### **2) George Washington was born in Virginia. He was:**

- a) the first President of the US and the Continental Army Commander
- b) a French Lieutenant General who led troops at the Battle of Yorktown

### **3) George Washington was called the "Father of His Country" because:**

- a) he was born and raised in Virginia, which was the first colony founded in America
- b) he presided at the Constitutional Convention and was a leader of the new nation

Many important battles of the American Revolutionary War were fought in Virginia, including the Battle of Yorktown of 1781, the last major battle of the war. At this battle, the Americans, led by Washington and the French Lieutenant General Marquis De Lafayette, defeated the British.

### **4) Marquis De Lafayette helped defeat the British army. He was:**

- c) the first President of the US and the Continental Army Commander
- d) a French Lieutenant General who led troops at the Battle of Yorktown

James Armistead Lafayette was born a slave in Kent County, Virginia in either 1748 or 1760. After gaining permission from his enslaver, he volunteered to join the Continental Army. He helped Americans win the war against the British by posing as a runaway slave to gain entry to

enemy camps, then spying on the British troops and informing Lieutenant General Lafayette, who was against slavery, of what he learned. After being freed for his military service, James added the last name Lafayette to honor the famous French general.

**5) James Armistead Lafayette helped the Continental Army defeat the British. He was:**

- a) a freeman who joined the Continental Army and fought as a soldier
- b) a slave who served as a spy to find out secrets of the British army

Thomas Jefferson, the second President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Shadwell, VA in 1743. He also wrote the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom which was the forerunner of First Amendment protections in the Constitution for religious freedom. James Madison, the fourth President of the United States and major author of the Constitution, was born in 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia. In 1787, Madison represented Virginia at the Constitutional Convention. He believed in a strong central government and in the Virginia Plan, he expressed his ideas about forming a three-part federal government, consisting of executive, legislative and judicial branches. These three branches, called a "system of checks and balances," were created so that no one branch has more power than the other. This system, in which the legislative branch makes the law, the executive branch enforces the law, and the judicial branch interprets the law, is still present today.

**6) Thomas Jefferson was:**

- a) a major author of the Constitution and the fourth President of the United States
- b) the author of the Declaration of Independence and the second United States President

**7) James Madison was:**

- c) a major author of the Constitution and the fourth President of the United States
- d) the author of the Declaration of Independence and the second United States President

**8) The ideas in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom:**

- a) were used in the United States Constitution
- b) were only ever used in the state of Virginia

**9) The United States Constitution established three branches of government:**

- a) to ensure that none of the branches were more powerful than the others

- b) so that each branch could balance and check the other two branches
- c) both of the above are reasons for the three branches of government

James Mason, another famous Virginian was born in Dogues Neck, Virginia in 1725. He was the primary author of The Virginia Declaration of 1776, which declared that "all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights" of which they cannot deprive themselves or their posterity. The ideas expressed in the Virginia Declaration were used by Thomas Jefferson in writing the Declaration of Independence when he wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

**10) James Mason wrote:**

- a) the Declaration of Independence
- b) The Virginia Declaration

**11) Mason's ideas about all men being equal and having certain rights were:**

- a) only seen in the Virginia Declaration and not used again
- b) were used in writing of the Declaration of Independence

Patrick Henry was another famous Virginian who served as the first and sixth post-colonial Governor of Virginia, from 1776 to 1779. Born in Studley, Virginia in 1736, he was best known for his declaration to the Second Virginia Convention in 1775: "Give me liberty, or give me death!" in reference to America's battle for freedom from British rule.

**12) Patrick Henry was:**

- a) the first and sixth governor of Virginia after the war
- b) famous for saying "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- c) both of the above statements are true about Henry

Another important fact to know about Virginia is that its capital was moved three times. The capital was in Jamestown at first, but several factors led it to be moved. First, the drinking water there was contaminated by salt water seepage, and because it was so near the water, swampy, dirty living conditions and mosquitos caused disease. In addition, fires had destroyed many

wooden buildings in Jamestown and it was easier to move than rebuild. In 1699, the capital was moved to Williamsburg, named after the British ruler King William III, which was at a higher elevation so further from the water and safer. Later, during the American Revolutionary War, the General Assembly of 1780 moved the capital from Williamsburg to Richmond because it was further still from the river and this could help prevent possible attack from the British forces. Richmond was also a central location that would make trade easier.

**13) The first capital of Virginia was:**

- a) Richmond
- b) Williamsburg
- c) Jamestown

**14) The capital of Virginia was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg because:**

- a) salt water contaminated the water
- b) all of these reasons are correct
- c) dirty conditions caused diseases
- d) many fires destroyed wood buildings

**15) The second capital of Virginia was:**

- d) Richmond
- e) Williamsburg
- f) Jamestown

**16) The third capital of Virginia was:**

- g) Richmond
- h) Williamsburg
- i) Jamestown

**17) The capital of Virginia was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond because:**

- a) it would be harder for the British to attack the capital
- b) the British army attacked and destroyed Williamsburg
- c) both of these are reasons for the change to Richmond

**18) It was harder for trade to be done because of Richmond's location.    T            F**