

VS 6c the influence of geography and technological advances on the migration of Virginians into other states and western territories in the first half of the 1800s

The Role of Virginia in the Establishment of the New Nation: Migration of Virginians

1. After the American Revolution, many Virginians began to head west.
2. Life following the Revolutionary War changed in many ways for Virginians, especially in the area of farming. After years of growing tobacco, the soil of eastern Virginia was worn out. Many farmers began looking to the south and west for new land.
4. 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. 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. These pioneer settlers included men, women, and children. They traveled by foot or with the help of horses, mules, or oxen. Very few of these Virginian pioneers had covered wagons. Some of the first people to move west were the trailblazers and explorers. These were men who marked the trail so that others could follow later. Daniel Boone was one of these brave men. He led a group of axmen who cut a route (road or trail) through the wilderness at Cumberland Gap. Settlers used this route as they crossed the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia headed west.