

SOL 4.6a Explain why George Washington is known as the “Father of our Country” and why James Madison is known as “Father of the Constitution”

## **The Role of Virginia in the Establishment of the New Nation** ***George Washington & James Madison***

1. The actions and ideas of two prominent Virginians, James Madison and George Washington, helped to form the new constitutional government of the United States.
2. When the war ended, the colonies began to work together to build a new nation with a new form of government. In 1787, each new state sent its greatest statesmen to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the Constitutional Convention. These delegates were going to write a new plan of government for the new nation. This plan, or set of laws, would be called the United States Constitution. James Madison was one of the statesmen from Virginia present at the Constitutional Convention. He loved his new country and believed in the importance of having a constitution. His skills at compromise helped the delegates reach agreement on many issues during the difficult process of writing the new government. He also kept detailed notes during the Convention and thanks to those records, we know much about what was said and done during this exciting time in our country’s history. His hard work and great ideas during the Convention earned him the title “Father of the Constitution.”
3. George Washington was another Virginian present at the Convention. He was chosen to oversee the work of these brilliant statesmen. The Convention ran through the hot summer of 1787. When it ended in September, a new government had been created. Under this new government, the citizens were given the right to elect the people they wanted to lead them. There would be no kings ruling the United States. In 1788, George Washington was elected as the first President. His courage, patriotism, and leadership during and after the war made him the first choice of the people. He would provide the strong leadership needed to help the young country survive and grow, and would serve as a model of leadership for future presidents. Because of his many contributions, he is often called the “Father of Our Country.”