



# *A State of Convenience* THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

An On-Line Exhibit  
West Virginia Archives and History

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood.html>

## **Introduction**

*We come here to carry out and execute, and it may be, to institute a government for ourselves. We are determined to live under a State Government in the United States of America and under the Constitution of the United States. It requires stout hearts to execute this purpose; it requires men of courage - of unfaltering determination; and I believe, in the gentlemen who compose this Convention, we have the stout hearts and the men who are determined in this purpose.*

Arthur Boreman, First Session of the Second Wheeling Convention, June 12, 1861

The Civil War was one of the pivotal events in the history of the United States, one that determined once and for all the question of slavery and strengthened the role of the federal government. For Virginians, the 1861-1865 conflict was momentous for another event - the rending of Virginia into two parts, east and west, and the formation of a new state called "West Virginia." The events that led to the creation of West Virginia in 1863 - from the decades-long divisions between the eastern counties of Virginia and their sister counties to the west, through the formation of a loyal Virginia government by western counties after the state government in Richmond seceded from the Union and the meeting of various conventions to formulate a new government, to Abraham Lincoln's signing of the statehood bill and the inauguration of Arthur Boreman as West Virginia's first governor - are the focus of West Virginia Archives and History's online exhibit "A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia." (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood.html>)

"A State of Convenience," provides primary and secondary source documents, photographs, maps and illustrations that are related to the formation of West Virginia. To compliment the online exhibit, Archives and History staff developed this collection of exercises to encourage students to interact with the exhibit and the resources found within. Teachers are encouraged to use and adapt the exercises to meet their needs. Archives and History would also like to have other exercises or lesson plans developed by teachers that could be added to the Archives and History website. If you have lesson plans or exercises that you would like to share please contact Archive and History Assistant Director Bryan Ward at 304-558-0230 ext. 723 or email him at [bryan.e.ward@wv.gov](mailto:bryan.e.ward@wv.gov).



# *A State of Convenience*

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

*Directions:* Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehoodtoc.html> on the internet. Read the Introduction and go to the Table of Contents. Go to Chapter 1: East vs. West and answer the following questions.

## *East vs. West*

1. The image from Howe's *History of Virginia* shows two views of Virginia. Describe the differences between these two views in the boxes below.

East	West

2. Who was given voting rights according the Virginia State Constitution adopted in 1776? Who benefited from this provision?

3. When John G. Jackson penned his letter under the pseudonym "A Mountaineer," how many representatives for the General Assembly came from each county and how many counties were found west of the Blue Ridge Mountains? Why was Jackson upset about this?

4. What were the three main concessions made by Easterners following conventions held in Staunton in 1816 and 1825?
5. What changes did western Virginians want during the Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830? What was the result and how did some westerners respond?
6. What were the results of the Virginia Constitutional Convention (also known as the Reform Convention) in 1850-1851?
7. By the late 1850s what was the relationship between easterners and westerners in Virginia?
8. What impact did John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry have on the relationship between eastern and western Virginia?



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### Answer Key

#### *East vs. West Worksheet*

1. The image from Howe's *History of Virginia* shows the two views of Virginia. What are the differences between these two views?

The Eastern view is of a plantation with slaves, while the Western view is of a mountaineer with a small cabin in the mountains.

2. Who was given voting rights according the Virginia State Constitution adopted in 1776? Who benefited from this provision?

The 1776 Virginia State Constitution granted voting rights only to white males owning at least 25 acres of improved or 50 acres of unimproved land. The provision benefited plantation owners in Eastern Virginia.

3. When John G. Jackson penned his letter under the pseudonym "A Mountaineer," how many representatives for the General Assembly came from each county and how many counties were found west of the Blue Ridge Mountains? Why was Jackson upset about this?

Each county was represented by two delegates no matter what the population was. The west was made up of 4 of the states 24 counties. Jackson was upset because many men in the west were unable to vote and they were underrepresented in the General Assembly.

4. What were the three main concessions made by Easterners following conventions held in Staunton in 1816 and 1825?

1. Reapportionment of the Senate based on white population instead of total population including slaves.
2. The Board of Public Works was created to legislate internal improvements like roads and canals.
3. The establishment of state banks in Winchester and Wheeling.

5. What changes did western Virginians want during the Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830? What was the result and how did some westerners respond?

Westerners during the Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830 had hoped to achieve universal white male suffrage and the direct election of state and local officials. The efforts failed and several newspapers in the west called for secession from Virginia.

6. What were the results of the Virginia Constitutional Convention (also known as the Reform Convention) in 1850-1851?

Easterners and westerners agreed to: universal white male suffrage for men over the age of 21; the direct election of governor and judges by the people; and a provision to tax property at its total value, except slaves who were valued at rates below their actual worth.

7. By the late 1850s what was the relationship between easterners and westerners in Virginia?

They were closer politically than they had ever been.

8. What impact did John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry have on the relationship between eastern and western Virginia?

John Brown's Raid added more tension to the trouble relationship between eastern and western Virginians .



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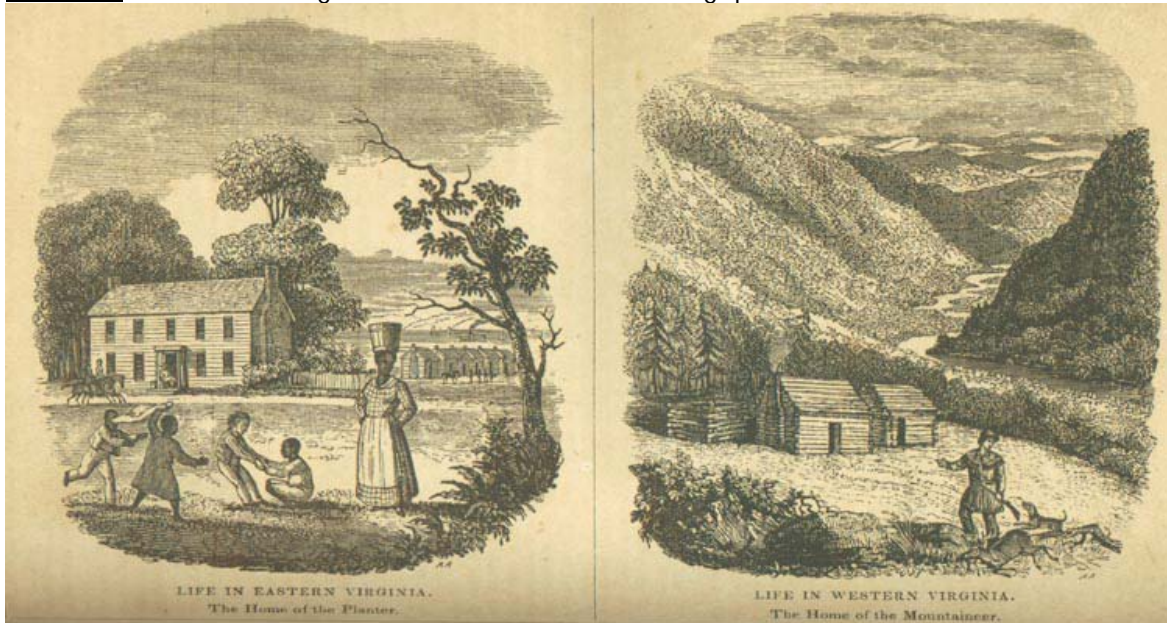
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## *East vs. West*

### Image Analysis

Directions: Look at the image below and answer the following questions.



from Howe's *History of Virginia*

1. Who is represented in the two pictures above?

Eastern Virginia:

Western Virginia:

2. How do the lives of the people above differ?

Eastern Virginia:

Western Virginia:

3. How does the geography differ in the pictures above?

Eastern Virginia:

Western Virginia:



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## *East vs. West*

### Writing Exercise

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood01.html> and pick one of the following writing assignments. Use the back of this sheet to complete the writing prompt.

1. In 1803 Harrison County Delegate John G. Jackson penned a letter to the *Richmond Examiner* under the pseudonym "A Mountaineer" to complain about property qualifications for voting and the unbalanced representation in Virginia. Write a letter to the *Charleston Gazette* under the pseudonym "A Mountaineer" about an issue that you are concerned about today.
2. In 1816 and 1825 delegates from western Virginia met in Staunton to discuss changes that they wanted to come to Virginia. Write a letter to a friend or family member about the changes that took place at these conventions and the impact that these new changes could have for western Virginia.
3. After the passage of the 1830 Virginia Constitution westerners were very upset because their demands were not included in the new constitution. Write a letter to the editor of the *Kanawha Republican* about the problems that were not addressed in the new constitution.
4. In 1850 the Reform Convention meeting in Richmond passed constitutional reforms that were appreciated in western Virginia. Write a letter to your business partner in Wheeling explaining the changes that have finally come to Virginia.



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## *The Election of 1860*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood02.html>, read the chapter on *The Election of 1860* and answer the questions below.

1. Complete the following chart concerning the 1860 presidential candidates.

<i>U.S. Presidential Candidates 1860</i>		
<i>Party</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Republican Party</i>		
<i>Democratic Party – North</i>		
<i>Democratic Party – South</i>		
<i>Constitutional Union Party</i>		

2. Who received the most votes in Virginia?
3. Who received the second most votes in Virginia?
4. What region of Virginia provided Lincoln with the majority of his votes?
5. Who won the presidency and what happened following his election?



## Answer Key

### *The Election of 1860*

1. Complete the following chart concerning the 1860 presidential candidates.

<i>U.S. Presidential Candidates 1860</i>		
<i>Party</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Republican Party</i>	Abraham Lincoln	Hannibal Hamlin
<i>Democratic Party – North</i>	Stephen Douglas	Herschel V. Johnson
<i>Democratic Party – South</i>	John Breckinridge	Joseph Lane
<i>Constitutional Union Party</i>	John Bell	Edward Everett

2. Who received the most votes in Virginia?

John Bell

3. Who received the second most votes in Virginia?

John Breckinridge

4. What region of Virginia provided Lincoln with the majority of his votes?

Northwestern

5. Who won the presidency and what happened following his election?

Abraham Lincoln. Southern states began withdrawing from the Union.



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## The 1860 Presidential Vote in Virginia

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/1860presidentialvote.html> and answer the following questions.

1. Complete the following chart

1860 Presidential Vote Totals in Virginia				
<i>Candidate</i>				Douglas
<i>Party</i>	Republican Party	Constitutional Union Party	Democratic Party South	Democratic Party North
<i>West Virginia Counties Totals</i>				
<i>Virginia Totals</i>				

2. Who received the most votes in Virginia in the 1860 presidential election and which party did he represent?

3. Who came in second place in Virginia and by how many votes?

4. Who received the most votes in counties that later became West Virginia?

5. In which counties did Abraham Lincoln receive the most votes? In which geographic region are these counties found?

6. Who won the national election for president in 1860? What happened as a result of this victory?

## Answer Key

### *The 1860 Presidential Vote in Virginia*

1. Complete the following chart

<b>1860 Presidential Vote Totals in Virginia</b>				
<i>Candidate</i>	A. Lincoln	J. Bell	J. Breckinridge	Douglas
<i>Party</i>	Republican Party	Constitutional Union Party	Democratic Party South	Democratic Party North
<i>West Virginia Counties Totals</i>	1,402	20,997	21,908	5,742
<i>Virginia Totals</i>	1,929	74,681	74,323	16,290

2. Who received the most votes in Virginia in the 1860 presidential election and which party did he represent?

John Bell

3. Who came in second place in Virginia and by how many votes?

Breckinridge came in second place and lost by 358 votes.

4. Who received the most votes in counties that later became West Virginia?

Breckinridge

5. In which counties did Abraham Lincoln receive the most votes? In which geographic region are these counties found?

Lincoln received votes in Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio counties. These counties were found in the northern panhandle of Virginia.

6. Who won the national election for president in 1860? What happened as a result of this victory?

Lincoln won the national presidential election. Because of Lincoln's victory southern states began to secede from the Union.



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## *The Richmond Convention*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood03.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the Richmond Convention held?
2. Why was the convention held?
3. How many delegates attended the convention?
4. What was the general mood of the convention in February, March and April of 1861?
5. What event changed the mood of the convention?
6. What action by President Lincoln resulted in calls for the Virginia Ordinance of Secession?
7. What was the vote total concerning the Virginia Ordinance of Secession?
8. From where were the delegates from who voted against the ordinance?

## Answer Key

### *The Richmond Convention*

1. When was the Richmond Convention held?

The convention was held between February 13 and April 17, 1861.

2. Why was the convention held?

The convention was held to determine Virginia's course in the secession crisis.

3. How many delegates attended the convention?

There were 152 delegates to the Richmond Convention.

4. What was the general mood of the convention in February, March and April of 1861?

The general mood of the convention was against secession.

5. What event changed the mood of the convention?

The surrender of Fort Sumter to Confederate forces changed the mood of the convention.

6. What action by President Lincoln resulted in calls for the Virginia Ordinance of Secession?

President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion.

7. What was the vote total concerning the Virginia Ordinance of Secession?

The vote total for secession was 88 with 55 voting against secession.

8. From where were the delegates from who voted against the ordinance?

The delegates voting against secession were from western Virginia.



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## *The Virginia Ordinance of Secession*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/ordinanceofsecession.html> and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Virginia Ordinance of Secession attempt to repeal?
2. What were the reasons given for the creation of the Ordinance of Secession?
3. What was Virginia claiming by dissolving the Union?
4. What was the method for approving the ordinance?
5. When was the ordinance to go into effect?

## Answer Key

### *The Virginia Ordinance of Secession*

1. What did the Virginia Ordinance of Secession attempt to repeal?

The ordinance attempted to repeal Virginia's ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

2. What were the reasons given for the creation of the Ordinance of Secession?

The ordinance claimed that the U.S. government caused injury to the people of Virginia and oppressed southern slaveholding states.

3. What was Virginia claiming by dissolving the Union?

Virginia was claiming that they were a free and independent state.

4. What was the method for approving the ordinance?

A state referendum or vote of the citizens of Virginia was the method chosen to ratify the secession ordinance.

5. When was the ordinance to go into effect?

The secession ordinance was set to go into effect following the statewide vote on the fourth Thursday of May 1861 (May 23, 1861).



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## *The Clarksburg Convention*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood04.html> and <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/clarksburgconvention.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the Clarksburg Convention held?
2. What was the purpose of the convention?

View Resolutions Approved at the Clarksburg Convention at:  
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/clarksburgconvention.html>

3. According to the preamble what did the Richmond Convention do "contrary to the expectation of a large majority of the people of this State?"
4. What did the Governor of the Commonwealth undertake by proclamation without the consent of the voters?
5. According to the preamble what is the "great conservator a free people's liberties?"
6. How did Virginia display hostility to the federal government?



7. What did the governor inaugurate "without consulting those in whose name they profess to act?"

8. What did the convention urge counties of Northwestern Virginia to do?

9. What was the final outcome of the Clarksburg Convention?

## Answer Key

### *The Clarksburg Convention*

1. When was the Clarksburg Convention held?

April 22, 1861

2. What was the purpose of the convention?

The reason for the convention was for westerners to respond to the Ordinance of Secession.

View Resolutions Approved at the Clarksburg Convention at:

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/clarksburgconvention.html>

3. According to the preamble what did the Richmond Convention do "contrary to the expectation of a large majority of the people of this State?"

The convention "adopted an ordinance withdrawing Virginia from the Federal Union."

4. What did the Governor of the Commonwealth undertake by proclamation without the consent of the voters?

He called the volunteer soldiery of the state to report to him and hold themselves ready to make war on the federal government.

5. According to the preamble what is the "great conservator of a free people's liberties?"

The ballot-box is the great conservator of a free people's liberty.

6. How did Virginia display hostility to the federal government?

The state displayed hostility by seizing ships, taking control of Custom Houses, tearing down flags, and attacking the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry and inaugurating war with out the vote of the people.

7. What did the governor inaugurate "without consulting those in whose name they profess to act?"

The governor inaugurated war by attacking the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry before the passage of the secession ordinance.

8. What did the convention urge counties of Northwestern Virginia to do?

The convention urged the counties of western Virginia to send delegates to Wheeling on May 13 to determine the action of northwestern Virginia in the present emergency.

9. What was the final outcome of the Clarksburg Convention?

The Clarksburg Convention led to the First Wheeling Convention.



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## *The Clarksburg Convention*

Directions: Read the resolutions from the Clarksburg Convention from the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, April 25, 1861 and answer the following questions.

### **Clarksburg Convention April 22, 1861**

**NORTHWESTERN VIRGINIA.**

**Great Movement in Harrison County for a Separate Organization  
of the Northwest from the Seceders.**

**CONVENTION CALLED IN THIS CITY ON THE 13TH OF MAY.**

**From the Clarksburg Guard, Extra**

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of from 1,000 to 1,200 of the citizens of Harrison county, assembled at the Court House upon a notice of forty-eight hours, on Monday, April 22, 1861, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted without one dissenting voice.

**PREAMBLE.**

WHEREAS, The Convention now in session in this State, called by the Legislature, the members of which had been elected twenty months before said call, at a time when no such action as the assemblage of a convention by legislative enactment was contemplated by the people, or expected by the members they elected in May, 1859, at which time no one anticipated the troubles recently brought upon our common country by the extraordinary action of the State authorities of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, has, contrary to the expectation of a large majority of the people of this State, adopted an ordinance withdrawing Virginia from the Federal Union: and whereas, by the law calling said Convention, it is expressly declared that no such ordinance shall have force or effect, or be of binding obligation upon the people of this State, until the same shall be ratified by the voters at the polls,: and whereas, we have seen with regret that demonstrations of hostility, unauthorized by law, and inconsistent with the duty of law-abiding citizens, still owing allegiance to the Federal Government, have been made by a portion of the people of this State against the said Government: and whereas, the Governor of this Commonwealth, has, by proclamation, undertaken to decide for the people of Virginia, that which they have reserved to themselves, the right to decide by their votes at the polls, and has called upon the volunteer soldiery of this State to report to him and hold themselves in readiness to make war upon the Federal Government, which Government is Virginia's Government, and must in law and of right continue so to be, until the people of Virginia

shall, by their votes, and through the ballot-box, that great conservator of a free people's liberties, decide otherwise: and whereas, the peculiar situation of Northwestern Virginia, separated as it is by natural barriers from the rest of the State, precludes all hope of timely succor in the hour of danger from other portions of the State, and demands that we should look to and provide for our own safety in the fearful emergency in which we now find ourselves placed by the action of our State authorities, who have disregarded the great fundamental principle upon which our beautiful system of Government is based, to wit: "That all governmental power is derived from the consent of the governed," and have without consulting the people placed this State in hostility to the Government by seizing upon its ships and obstructing the channel at the mouth of Elizabeth river, by wresting from the Federal officers at Norfolk and Richmond the custom houses, by tearing from the Nation's property the Nation's flag, and putting in its place a bunting, the emblem of rebellion, and by marching upon the National Armory at Harper's Ferry; thus inaugurating a war without consulting those in whose name they profess to act; and whereas, the exposed condition of Northwestern Virginia requires that her people should be united in action, and unanimous in purpose - there being a perfect identity of interests in times of war as well as in peace - therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it be and is hereby recommended to the people in each and all of the counties composing Northwestern Virginia to appoint delegates, not less than five in number, of their wisest, best, and discreetest men, to meet in Convention at Wheeling, on the 13th day of May next, to consult and determine upon such action as the people of Northwestern Virginia should take in the present fearful emergency,

*Resolved*, That Hon: John S. Carlile, W. Goff, Hon. Chas. S. Lewis, J. Davis, Lot Bowen, Dr. Wm. Dunkin, W. E. Lyon, Felix Sturm, and James Lynch be and are hereby appointed delegates to represent this county in said Convention.

JOHN HURLEY, Pres.

J. W. Harris, Sec'y.

Strange to say, among that large assembly, not a single response was heard to the call by the President for the nays on any of the questions before the meeting.

### Questions

1. According to the preamble what did the Richmond Convention do "contrary to the expectation of a large majority of the people of this State?"
2. What did the Governor of the Commonwealth undertake by proclamation without the consent of the voters?
3. According to the preamble what is the "great conservator of a free people's liberties?"
4. How did Virginia display hostility to the federal government?

5. What did the governor inaugurate "without consulting those in whose name they profess to act?"

6. What did the convention urge counties of Northwestern Virginia to do?

7. What was the final outcome of the Clarksburg Convention?

## Answer Key

### *The Clarksburg Convention*

1. According to the preamble what did the Richmond Convention do “contrary to the expectation of a large majority of the people of this State?”

The convention “adopted an ordinance withdrawing Virginia from the Federal Union.”

2. What did the Governor of the Commonwealth undertake by proclamation without the consent of the voters?

He called the volunteer soldiery of the state to report to him and hold themselves ready to make war on the federal government.

3. According to the preamble what is the “great conservator of a free people’s liberties?”

The ballot-box is the great conservator of the people’s liberty.

4. How did Virginia display hostility to the federal government?

The state displayed hostility by seizing ships, taking control of Custom Houses, tearing down flags, and attacking the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry and inaugurating war with out the vote of the people.

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The governor inaugurated war by attacking the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry before the passage of the secession ordinance.

6. What did the convention urge counties of Northwestern Virginia to do?

The convention urged the counties of western Virginia to send delegates to Wheeling on May 13 to determine the action of northwestern Virginia in the present emergency.

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The Clarksburg Convention led to the First Wheeling Convention.



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## *The First Wheeling Convention*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood05.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the first Wheeling Convention held and where did the delegates meet?
2. How many counties were represented?
3. What was the major purpose of the convention?
4. What was the first debate at the convention? How was the problem solved?
5. During the convention what were the two major positions and who were the main supporters of each?

Position 1	Main Supporters
Position 2	Main Supporter

6. When was the statewide vote on the Order of Secession?
7. What did the convention decide to do if the Order of Secession passed?



## Answer Key

### *The First Wheeling Convention*

1. When was the first Wheeling Convention held and where did the delegates meet?

The first Wheeling Convention was held May 13 – 15, 1861. The convention met at Washington Hall in Wheeling.

2. How many counties were represented?

Twenty-seven counties were represented at the meetings.

3. What was the major purpose of the convention?

The purpose of the convention was to consider and respond to the Order of Secession presented at Richmond.

4. What was caused the first debate at the convention? How was the problem solved?

The first debate at the convention was to determine how counties should be represented and who would serve in the body. The issue was solved by the creation of a Committee on Representation and Permanent Organization.

5. During the convention what were the two major positions and who were the main supporters of each?

<b>Position 1</b>	<b>Main Supporters</b>
Wait for the statewide vote	General John Jay Jackson, Waitman T. Willey
<b>Position 2</b>	<b>Main Supporter</b>
The creation of a New State	John S. Carlile

6. When was the statewide vote on the Order of Secession?

May 23, 1861

7. What did the convention decide to do if the Order of Secession passed?

The convention decided to meet in Wheeling on June 11, 1861



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## *Ratification of the Ordinance of Secession*

Directions: Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood06.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the statewide vote on the Ordinance of Secession held?

2. Why was the vote merely a technicality?

3. What was the statewide outcome of the Ordinance of Secession vote?

For Secession	Against Secession

4. Why were many western Virginians outraged?

5. Go to "The Election News" from the *Wellsburg Herald* at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/oofsvote.html> and answer the following questions.

According to the news story:

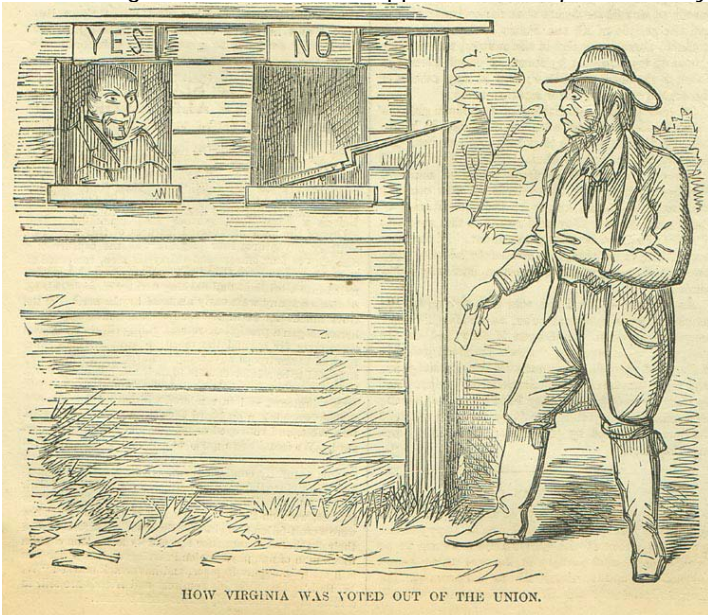
- Which county had the most total votes?
- Which county had the least total number of votes?
- Which county had the most votes against secession?
- Which county had the most votes for secession?
- From the list, how many of the counties listed were against secession?

6. At the bottom of the articles is a list of names. Why were the people listed?

7. Why might being on this list be a bad thing?

8. Which side of the vote do you think the *Wellsburg Herald* was on? What evidence would you give to support your answer?

9. According to this cartoon that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* how was Virginia voted out of the Union?



## Answer Key

### *Ratification of the Ordinance of Secession*

1. When was the statewide vote on the Ordinance of Secession held?

May 23, 1861

2. Why was the vote merely a technicality?

The vote was merely a technicality because the government of Virginia had already aligned itself with the Confederacy.

3. What was the statewide outcome of the Ordinance of Secession vote?

For Secession	Against Secession
125,950	20,373

4. Why were many western Virginians outraged?

Many western Virginians were outraged because many of the votes from western Virginia were not delivered to Richmond.

5. Go to "The Election News" from the *Wellsburg Herald* at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/oofsvote.html> and answer the following questions.

According to the news story:

- Which county had the most total votes? Ohio
  - Which county had the least total number of votes? Pleasants
  - Which county had the most votes against secession? Ohio
  - Which county had the most votes for secession? Harrison
  - From the list, how many of the counties listed were against secession? 23
6. At the bottom of the articles is a list of names. Why were the people listed?

This is a list of people who voted for secession.

7. Why might being on this list be a bad thing?

It would be bad to be on this list because people could retaliate against you.

8. Which side of the vote do you think the *Wellsburg Herald* was on? What evidence would you give to support your answer?

The *Wellsburg Herald* was against secession. There are various answers, but the names of people who voted for secession, the words Southern conspiracy, and others.

9. According to this cartoon that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* how was Virginia voted out of the Union?

According to this cartoon Virginia was voted out of the Union through intimidation and the threat of violence.



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

## ***The First Session of Second Wheeling Convention***

Directions: Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood07.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the Second Wheeling Convention held?
2. Who was elected to serve as the president of the convention?
3. According to the president of the convention what was the purpose of the convention?
4. According to the president of the convention what were the members of the convention determined to do?
5. Where did the convention move to on June 13, 1861?
6. At the first Wheeling convention John Carlile argued for the immediate creation of a new state. What position did he support during the second convention and why did he support this position?
7. When did the Second Wheeling Convention vote in favor of the reorganization of Virginia's government?

8. How many people in the Second Wheeling Convention voted against the ordinance to restore Virginia's government?

9. Who was elected to fill the following offices?

Governor	
Lieutenant Governor	
Attorney General	

## Answer Key

1. When was the Second Wheeling Convention held?

June 11 – 25, 1861

2. Who was elected to serve as the president of the convention?

Arthur I. Boreman

3. According to the president of the convention what was the purpose of the convention?

“to carry out and execute, and it may be, to institute a government for ourselves”

4. According to the president of the convention what were the members of the convention determined to do?

“live under a State Government in the United States of America and under the Constitution of the United States.”

5. Where did the convention move to on June 13, 1861?

The U.S. Custom House in Wheeling

6. At the first Wheeling convention John Carlile argued for the immediate creation of a new state. What position did he support during the second convention and why did he support this position?

At the second convention John Carlile supported the formation of a loyal government of Virginia. He supported this position because he believed that it was the only constitutional way to create a new state.

7. When did the Second Wheeling Convention vote in favor of the reorganization of Virginia’s government?

June 19, 1861

8. How many people in the Second Wheeling Convention voted against the ordinance to restore Virginia’s government?

Zero, the vote for the reorganization was unanimous.

9. Who was elected to fill the following offices?

Governor	Francis Pierpont
Lieutenant Governor	Daniel Polsley
Attorney General	James Wheat





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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

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

## Legislature of the Reorganized Government of Virginia Meets in Extra Session

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood08.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When did the Reorganized Government of Virginia meet in an extra session?
2. Who called for the extra session of the Reorganized Government of Virginia?
3. Complete the following chart.

	Senate	House of Delegates
Number in the body		
Meeting Place		
Leader name		

4. During his address to the legislature, Governor Pierpont:

- revealed that \_\_\_\_\_
- called on the legislature to establish \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- opposed \_\_\_\_\_
- he requested that \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who was elected by the legislature to the following state offices?

Office	Person
Secretary of the Commonwealth	
Auditor of Public Accounts	
Treasurer	
United States Senators	

6. Most of the actions of the extra session of the Reorganized Legislature were related to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ matters.

7. What was the purpose of House Bill no. 21?

How did the House of Delegates vote on the measure?

How did the Senate respond to a similar measure introduced in their body?

## Answer Key

1. When did the Reorganized Government of Virginia meet in an extra session?

July 1 – 26, 1861

2. Who called for the extra session of the Reorganized Government of Virginia?

Governor Francis Pierpont

3. Complete the following chart.

	Senate	House of Delegates
Number in the body	8	32
Meeting Place	Federal Courtroom U.S. Custom House	Linsly Institute Building
Leader name	President Lt. Governor Daniel Polsley	Speaker

4. During his address to the legislature, Governor Pierpont:

- revealed that President Lincoln pledged “full protection” to the people of western Virginia
- called on the legislature to establish an efficient system to protect the loyal people of the Commonwealth against the intrigues conspiracies and hostile acts of those who adhere to our enemies.
- opposed tax increases.
- requested that the Board of Public Works be abolished and its powers transferred to the Executive branch.

5. Who was elected by the legislature to the following state offices?

Office	Person
Secretary of the Commonwealth	Lucian Hagans
Auditor of Public Accounts	Samuel Crane

Treasurer	Campbell Tarr
United States Senators	John Carlile
	Waitman T. Willey

6. Most of the actions of the extra session of the Reorganized Legislature was related to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ matters. (financial and military)

7. What was the purpose of House Bill no. 21?

The purpose of the bill was to create a new state.

How did the House of Delegates vote on the measure?

The House of Delegates voted against the bill.

How did the Senate respond to a similar measure introduced in their body?

The Senate tabled the measure.



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *Second Session of the Second Wheeling Convention*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood09.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When was the Second Session of the Second Wheeling Convention held?
2. How did the Reorganized Government of Virginia respond to the Richmond Convention?
3. The convention formed a Committee on a Division of the State. What were the two major things that the committee did?
  - 1.
  - 2.
4. What name was chosen for the new state?
5. How many counties were included?
6. Which counties were to be added if voters in those counties approved?
7. What was the final vote total on the new state proposal?
8. When was the statewide new state proposal vote to be held?



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

## *Second Session of the Second Wheeling Convention*

### **Answer Key**

1. When was the Second Session of the Second Wheeling Convention held?

August 6 through 21, 1861

2. How did the Reorganized Government of Virginia respond to the Richmond Convention?

The Reorganized Government declared the Richmond Convention illegal, inoperative, null and void and without force or effect.

3. The convention formed a Committee on a Division of the State. What were the two major things that the committee did?

1. The committee created a dismemberment ordinance.
2. The committee proposed the creation of a new state.

4. What name was chosen for the new state?

Kanawha

5. How many counties were included?

39

6. Which counties were to be added if voters in those counties approved?

Berkeley, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Morgan and Pocahontas.

7. What was the final vote total on the new state proposal?

50 for and 28 against

8. When was the statewide new state proposal vote to be held?

October 24, 1861



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# *A State of Convenience*

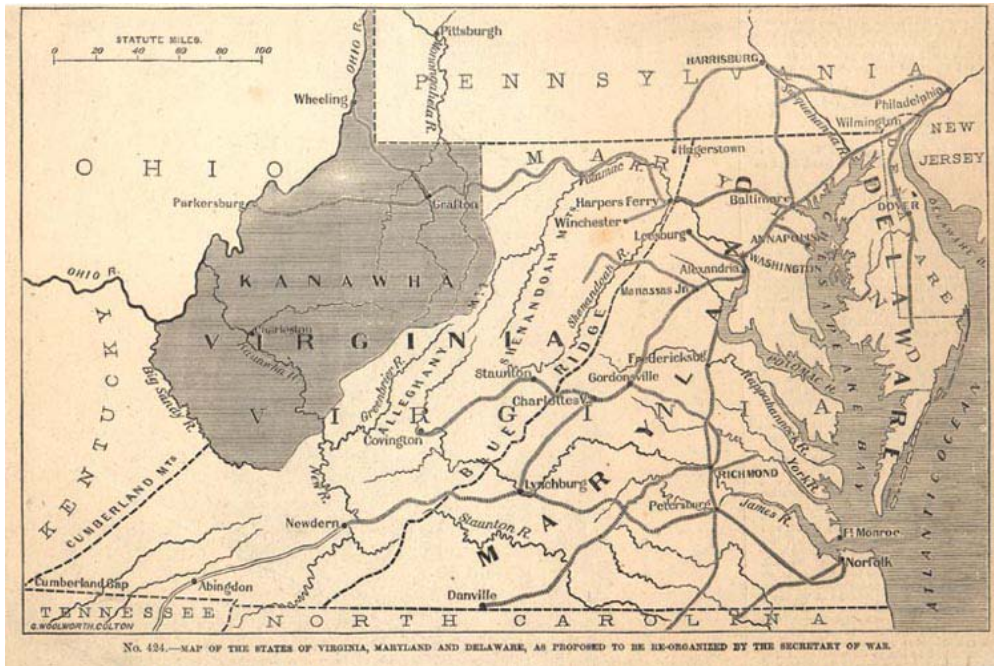
THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *Statehood Referendum*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood10.html> and answer the following questions.

1. What is a referendum?
2. How many counties voted in the statehood referendum? (Hint: be sure to include counties that were a part of the original statehood proposal.)
3. What was the voter turnout percentage for the statehood referendum? Was this high or low?
4. What reasons do you think led to turnout percentage in the question above?
5. How many people voted for the new state?
6. How many people voted against statehood?
7. What did voters also decide during this election?



1862 Map Showing the Proposed State of Kanawha *Frank Leslie's Pictorial History of the American Civil War, 1862 (Ma61- 25)*

8. What part of modern West Virginia is missing from the proposed state of Kanawha above?





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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

## *Statehood Referendum*

### Answer Key

1. What is a referendum?

A referendum is a direct vote of the people to approve major changes to a state's laws or territory.

2. How many counties voted in the statehood referendum? (Hint: be sure to include counties that were a part of the original statehood proposal.)

41

3. What was the voter turnout percentage for the statehood referendum? Was this high or low?

34%, voter turnout was low for this election.

4. What reasons do you think led to turnout percentage in the question above?

Students could give various answers. Possible answers: Civil War, people were afraid to vote, many of the voters were serving in the military and weren't home to vote, women and African-Americans could not vote.

5. How many people voted for the new state?

18,408

6. How many people voted against statehood?

781

7. What did voters also decide during this election?

Voters also picked delegates to the new state's constitutional convention.

8. What part of modern West Virginia is missing from the proposed state of Kanawha above?

The eastern panhandle and Greenbrier Valley are missing from the map.



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *West Virginia Constitutional Convention*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood11.html> and answer the following questions.

1. What issues did the delegates to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention address when they met on November 26, 1861?
2. What reasons did delegates give for changing the name of the new state?
3. What other state names were proposed for the new state?  
(Hint: go to [www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statename.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statename.html) to see a list)
4. After the debate on the new state's boundary, how many counties were finally considered?  
original \_\_\_\_\_, additional \_\_\_\_\_, and those awaiting voter approval \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Slavery was a very controversial subject. Following the debates, what was the final outcome?
6. What solution did Delegate Robert Hagar of Boone County suggest?

7. What solution did Delegate Gordon Battelle of Ohio County suggest?

8. On February 18, 1862, delegates at the West Virginia Constitutional Convention approved the new constitution with a \_\_\_\_\_ vote.

9. What was the final vote total when voters approved the new constitution?

for the new constitution \_\_\_\_\_ against the new constitution \_\_\_\_\_.



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

## *West Virginia Constitutional Convention*

### **Answer Key**

1. What issues did the delegates to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention address when then they met on November 26, 1861?

The key issues for delegates at the West Virginia Constitutional Convention were the name of the new state, boundaries, and slavery.

2. What reasons did delegates give for changing the name of the new state?

Several things were already named Kanawha, like two rivers and a county. One delegate said that it was hard to spell.

3. What other state names were proposed for the new state?  
(Hint: go to [www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statename.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statename.html) to see a list)

West Virginia, Western Virginia, Alleghany, Augusta

4. After the debate on the new state's boundary, how many counties were finally considered?

original  39  , additional  5  , and those awaiting voter approval  7  .

5. Slavery was a very controversial subject. Following the debates, what was the final outcome?

The delegates decided that, "no slave shall be brought, or free person of color be permitted to come into this state for permanent residence."

6. What solution did Delegate Robert Hagar of Boone County suggest?

Hagar suggested the gradual emancipation of slaves.

7. What solution did Delegate Gordon Battelle of Ohio County suggest?

Battelle suggested that the state forbid slaves to enter the state and gradual emancipation.

8. On February 18, 1862, delegates at the West Virginia Constitutional Convention approved the new constitution with a  unanimous vote  .

9. What was the final vote total when voters approved the new constitution?

for the new constitution \_\_18,862\_\_ against the new constitution \_\_514\_\_.



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *Reorganized Government of Virginia Approves Separation*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood12.html> and answer the following questions.

1. What does the U.S. Constitution require before new states can be admitted to the Union?
2. What did the creation of the Reorganized Government of Virginia allow statehood leaders to do?
3. On what day did the Reorganized Government of Virginia give permission for creating a new state?



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

## *West Virginia Constitutional Convention*

### **Answer Key**

1. What does the U.S. Constitution require before new states can be admitted to the Union?

The U.S. Constitution requires the consent of any state from whose territory a new state would come .

2. What did the creation of the Reorganized Government of Virginia allow statehood leaders to do?

The creation of the Reorganized Government allowed statehood leaders to seek consent from the pro-Union body instead of the pro-Confederate Virginia government in Richmond.

3. On what day did the Reorganized Government of Virginia give permission for creating a new state?

May 13, 1862



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *Congressional Debates on the Admission of West Virginia*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood13.html> and answer the following questions.

1. On what day did Senator Waitman T. Willey present the formal petition to the United States Senate for the admission of West Virginia to the Union?

2. What changes did John S. Carlile make to the bill before it came before the Committee on Territories? What did the statehood leaders back home think about this?

3. What did the Willey Amendment call for?

4. What were the final Senate vote totals for West Virginia statehood?

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did Senator John S. Carlile vote on the bill? What happened to him because of his vote?

6. How did the House of Representatives vote on the West Virginia Statehood Bill?

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_





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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

## *Congressional Debates on the Admission of West Virginia*

### Answer Key

1. On what day did Senator Waitman T. Willey present the formal petition to the United States Senate for the admission of West Virginia to the Union?

May 29, 1862

2. What changes did John S. Carlile make to the bill before it came before the Committee on Territories? What did the statehood leaders back home think about this?

Carlile added 15 counties to the state, called for the gradual emancipation of slaves and required the new state to hold another constitutional convention. Statehood leaders back home were very upset.

3. What did the Willey Amendment call for?

The amendment called for the gradual emancipation of slavery.

4. What were the final Senate vote totals for West Virginia statehood?

For \_\_\_23\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_17\_\_\_

5. How did Senator John S. Carlile vote on the bill? What happened to him because of his vote?

Carlile voted against the bill and it ruined his political career in West Virginia.

6. How did the House of Representatives vote on the West Virginia Statehood Bill?

For \_\_\_96\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_55\_\_\_



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *Lincoln's Dilemma*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood14.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When did President Lincoln receive the West Virginia Statehood Bill?
2. What did Lincoln do after he received the bill?
3. How did the six reviewers vote?
4. How did Lincoln feel about the bill?
5. What reasons did Lincoln give for signing the bill?
6. When did Lincoln sign the West Virginia Statehood Bill?



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

## *Lincoln's Dilemma*

### **Answer Key**

1. When did President Lincoln receive the West Virginia Statehood Bill?

December 15, 1862.

2. What did Lincoln do after he received the bill?

He asked six members of his cabinet to review the bill and give him their opinion on the legality of the West Virginia Statehood Bill.

3. How did the six reviewers vote?

Three supported the bill and three disagreed with the bill.

4. How did Lincoln feel about the bill?

He had deep reservations about the bill.

5. What reasons did Lincoln give for signing the bill?

He could not afford to lose the support of West Virginia.  
West Virginians risked it all to support the Union and deserved his support.

6. When did Lincoln sign the West Virginia Statehood Bill?

December 31, 1862.



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *West Virginians Approve the Willey Amendment*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood15.html> and answer the following questions.

1. What conditions were West Virginians required to meet before the new state could be formed?
2. What did the Willey Amendment do?  
(Hint: go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/willeyamendment.html>)
3. On what day did West Virginia vote on the proposed changes (the Willey Amendment)?
4. What were the totals for the vote?  
For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did President Lincoln do following the results of the election?



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# A State of Convenience

THE CREATION of WEST VIRGINIA

## *West Virginians Approve the Willey Amendment*

### **Answer Key**

1. What conditions were West Virginians required meet before the new state could be formed?

They had to approve the Willey Amendment and make changes to the state constitution to reflect the Willey Amendment.

2. What did the Willey Amendment do?

(Hint: go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/willeyamendment.html>)

The children of slaves born within the limits of this State after the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be free; and all slaves within the said State who shall, at the time aforesaid, be under the age of ten years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-one years; and all slaves over ten and under twenty-one years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence therein.

3. On what day did West Virginia vote on the proposed changes (the Willey Amendment)?

March 26, 1863

4. What were the totals for the vote?

For 28,321 Against 572

5. What did President Lincoln do following the results of the election?

He issued a proclamation on April 20 declaring that in 60 days, or June 20, West Virginia would become the 35<sup>th</sup> state in the Union.



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

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

## *The New State of West Virginia*

**Directions:** Navigate to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood16.html> and answer the following questions.

1. When did voters go to the polls to elect West Virginia's first government officials?
2. Who was the first governor of West Virginia?
3. What was the name of his political party?
4. On what day did West Virginia officially become a state?
5. Where was West Virginia's first capital city?



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# *A State of Convenience*

THE CREATION *of* WEST VIRGINIA

## *The New State of West Virginia*

### ***Answer Key***

1. When did voters go to the polls to elect West Virginia's first government officials?

May 28, 1863

2. Who was the first governor of West Virginia?

Arthur I. Boreman of Wood County

3. What was the name of his political party?

Boreman was a member of the Constitutional Union party.

4. On what day did West Virginia officially become a state?

June 20, 1863

5. Where was West Virginia's first capital city?

Wheeling