

Geography influenced the movement of people and ideas as Virginians moved to and beyond the Virginia frontier. After the American Revolution, Virginia's agricultural base began to change, and as a result, large numbers of Virginians moved west and to the deep South to find better farmland and new *job/economic* opportunities.

- Tobacco farming was hard on the soil, causing many farmers to look west and south for new land to farm.
- 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.
- Virginians migrated into western territories, looking for large areas of land and new opportunities.
- 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.
- Settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap (*located in the Valley and Ridge region*) as they migrated to new lands in the west.