

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 10: Western Virginia in the New Nation - 1787-1850
Section 1: Virginia Revises Its Constitution

**Virginia Constitutional Convention
of 1850-51 (Page 2)**

Directions: Continue reading the excerpts from George Summers’s comments at the convention, then answer the questions that follow.

Gentlemen, you are excitable upon this subject of slave property; you ought to be to a certain extent. It is all right that you should be vigilant. But you are sometimes a little too excitable, and you had better have some cool men, with mountain air fanning their temples, to help you when you go into these consultations down south. Sir, in the event of conflict and of war, we have been told here that the east would like very well to have your help. We will give you our help, but we must come in as equals and brethren – equals in the cabinet as well as in the field – equals in the power to declare the war as well as to wage it.

Gentlemen express surprise that the people of the west should consider themselves degraded by this inequality which is sought to be forced upon them.... When our people see that some five thousand eastern inhabitants can send a member to this body, and that it requires some nine thousand of themselves to do the same thing, it is not easy for them to perceive that you claim superiority, and that by consequence, theirs is a position of inferiority....

George Summers, Kanawha County

Source: Convention Supplement to the *Richmond Enquirer Whig, Examiner, Times, Republican and Republican Advocate*, March 1851.

1. Why does Summers say western Virginia pays more taxes than eastern Virginia? _____

2. What does he say about taxing nonproductive items? _____

3. What does he say about eastern money going to support transportation improvements in the west? _____

4. What is Summers’s opinion about counting slaves to determine representation in the Virginia legislature? _____

5. How many eastern voters equate to a delegate? How many western voters equate to a delegate? _____

