Western counties in Virginia favored abolition of slavery. They had small farms and few slaves.

Eastern counties of Virginia relied on slave labor. They had larger farms and plantations.

Virginia in 1861

West Virginia was formed on June 20, 1863

Disagreement between the western and eastern counties caused Virginia to split into two states.
VS.7a Creation of West Virginia

Teacher Tips:
1. Copy the above maps and descriptions onto a white piece of 8 1/2 x 11" piece of paper.
2. Fold a piece of colorful paper in half, hamburger fold.
3. Cut out the 1861 map of Virginia and glue on the top of the foldable.
4. Cut out the 1863 map showing both Virginia and the newly created West Virginia on the inside of the foldable.
5. On the top part of the inside, have students create drawings to show what caused the disagreement and why the state split.

Note: The maps used in this foldable was created using Mapmaker Toolkit. Fairfax County Public Schools have a site license for this program. To avoid copyright violation, use in schools beyond FCPS is limited to those who also have this program.