**STANDARD VS.2A**  
**VIRGINIA’S BORDERING STATES**

*Locations of places can be described in *relative* terms.*

Relative location may be described using terms that show connections between two places such as “next to,” “near,” “bordering.”

Bordering bodies of water
- Atlantic Ocean
- Chesapeake Bay

Bordering states
- Maryland
- West Virginia
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- North Carolina

**Coastal Plain (Tidewater)**
- Flat land
- Location near Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay (includes Eastern Shore)
- East of the Fall Line

**Piedmont (land at the foot of mountains)**
- Rolling hills
- West of the Fall Line

**Blue Ridge Mountains**
- Old, rounded mountains
- Part of Appalachian mountain system
- Located between the Piedmont and Valley and Ridge regions
- Source of many rivers

**Valley and Ridge**
- Includes the Great Valley of Virginia and other valleys separated by ridges (The Blue Ridge Mountains and the Valley and Ridge Regions are part of the Appalachian mountain system.)
- Located west of Blue Ridge Mountains

**Appalachian Plateau**
- Located in Southwest Virginia
- Only a small part of the plateau is located in Virginia

**STANDARD VS.2B**  
**VIRGINIA’S FIVE REGIONS**

Virginia can be divided into five geographic regions. Geographic regions have distinctive characteristics.

**Terms to know**
- **Fall Line**: The natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions, where waterfalls prevent further travel on the river
- **Plateau**: Area of elevated land that is flat on top

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**STANDARD VS.2C**  
**VIRGINIA’S RIVERS AND WATERWAYS**

*Water features* were important to the early history of Virginia.

Many early Virginia cities developed along the *Fall Line*, the natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions where the land rises sharply and where the *waterfalls prevent further travel on the river*.

The *four major rivers* that flow into the Chesapeake Bay are separated by peninsulas.

The Chesapeake Bay separates the Eastern Shore from the mainland of Virginia.

**Terms to know**
- **Peninsula**: A piece of land bordered by water on three sides.
  - The Eastern Shore is a peninsula bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
Water features

Atlantic Ocean
- Provided transportation links between Virginia and other places (e.g., Europe, Africa, Caribbean)

Chesapeake Bay
- Provided a safe harbor
- Was a source of food and transportation

James River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Richmond and Jamestown located along the James River

York River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Yorktown located along the York River

Potomac River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Alexandria located along the Potomac River

Rappahannock River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Fredericksburg located on the Rappahannock River

Each river was a source of food and provided a pathway for exploration and settlement of Virginia.

- Lake Drummond
  - Located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region
  - Shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp

- Dismal Swamp
  - Located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region
  - Variety of wildlife