

## VS.2D - G VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHY, NATIVE PEOPLES

### STANDARD VS.2D

#### AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGE GROUPS

*American Indians were the **first people** who lived in Virginia.*

*American Indians lived in **all areas** of the state.*

*There were **three major American Indian language groups** in Virginia.*

**Christopher Columbus** called the people he found in the lands he explored “Indians” because he thought he was **in the Indies** (near China)

**Artifacts** such as **arrowheads**, **pottery**, and other **tools** that have been found tell a lot about the people who lived in Virginia.

American Indian identities have always been closely **connected to the land**. American Indians did not believe in **land ownership**.



#### Three major language groups

- **Algonquian** languages were spoken primarily in the **Tidewater** region; the **Powhatan** were a part of this group.
- **Siouan** languages were spoken primarily in the **Piedmont** region – the **Monacan** were part of this group.
- **Iroquoian** languages were spoken in **Southwestern Virginia** and in **Southern Virginia** near what is today North Carolina; the **Cherokee** were a part of this group.

### STANDARD VS.2E

#### INDIANS ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD, CLOTHING SHELTER

*Virginia's American Indians worked with the **climate** and their **environment** to meet their basic wants.*

*Many American Indians lived in towns situated along the **rivers**, which made for good **farming**, good **fishing**, and easy **travel**.*

*Virginia Indian **cultures** have **changed** over time.*

#### Climate in Virginia

- The **climate** in Virginia is relatively **mild** with distinct **seasons**—spring, summer, fall, and winter—resulting in a **variety of vegetation**.
- **Forests**, which have a variety of trees, cover most of the land. Virginia's American Indians are referred to as **Eastern Woodland Indians**.

#### Environmental Connections

The kinds of **food** American Indians ate, the **clothing** they wore, and the **shelters** they had depended upon the **seasons**.

- **Foods** changed **with the seasons**.
- In **winter**, they **hunted** birds and animals and lived on foods stored the previous fall.
- In **spring**, they **hunted**, **fished** and **picked** berries.
- In **summer**, they **grew crops** (beans, corn, squash).
- In **fall**, they **harvested** crops and **hunted** for foods to preserve and keep for the winter.
- **Animal skins** (deerskin) were used for **clothing**.
- **Shelter** was made from materials around them.

Native peoples of the past **farmed**, **hunted**, and **fished**. They made homes using **natural resources**. They used **animal skins** for clothing.

Today, most native peoples live like other Americans. Their **cultures have changed** over time.

### STANDARD VS.2F

#### EVIDENCE AT WEROWOCOMO & JAMESTOWN

***Archaeology** is another way that helps people understand the past.*

*Recent archaeological digs have recovered new material **evidence** about **Werowocomoco** and historic **Jamestown**.*



**Archaeologists** study all kinds of material **evidence** left from people of the past.

**Werowocomoco** was a large Indian town located on the **York** River, used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before the

English settlers came. It was the **headquarters** of the leader, **Powhatan**, in 1607.

**Jamestown** became **the first permanent English settlement** in North America. Archaeologists have discovered the site of the original fort.

The recovered **artifacts** give archaeologists clues about the interactions of English, Africans, and Indians in early Virginia.

## STANDARD VS.2G INDIANS IN VIRGINIA TODAY

*American Indian people have lived in Virginia for thousands of years.*

*Virginia Indians have contributed to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation.*

**American Indians**, who trace their ancestry family history back to before 1607, **continue to live in all parts** of Virginia today.

- Virginia Indians live and work as **modern Americans**.
- Many practice **ancient traditions** and crafts while incorporating new customs over time.
- The current state-recognized tribes are located in regions **throughout Virginia**.

The tribes maintain tribal museums and lands on which they hold public festivals called **powwows**.

- The **powwow** is a way of teaching American Indians and visitors about their culture, past and present.

Today, Virginia Indians maintain their **strong cultural heritage** through drumming, singing, dance, art, jewelry, clothing, crafts, pottery, and storytelling.

Virginia Indians **contribute to American society** as active citizens who vote, hold office, and work in communities.