

## VS.2 VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHY, NATIVE PEOPLES – 2020 UPDATE

### 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

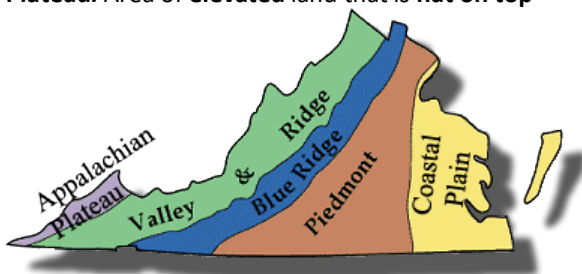
### STANDARD VS.2B VIRGINIA'S FIVE REGIONS

*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**



Geographic regions

#### 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 **ivers**

#### 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.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

**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**.

## STANDARD VS.2G

### INDIANS IN VIRGINIA TODAY

- **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.

Native Americans tried to **escape** from the English colonists by hiding and living in the **Dismal Swamp**.

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

*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, whose **ancestors** have lived in Virginia for **thousands of years** before 1607, continue to **live in all parts** of the state today.

- Virginia Indians live and work as **modern Americans**.
- Many practice **ancient traditions** and crafts while incorporating new customs over time.
- American Indians and their culture were **greatly affected by white European colonization**. They **intermingled** with the English and Africans.
- 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.

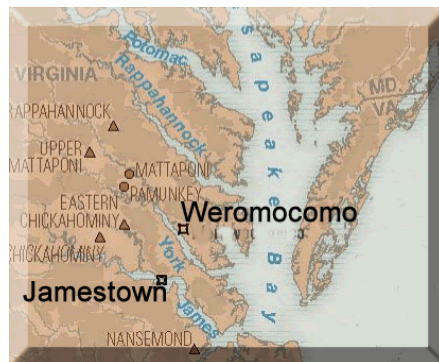
Today, Virginia Indians maintain their **strong cultural heritage** through drumming, singing, dance, art, jewelry, clothing, crafts, pottery, and storytelling.

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

## STANDARD VS.2F EVIDENCE AT WEROWOCOMOCO & 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.