

Virginia Studies  
STANDARD VS.2a-c  
STUDY GUIDE

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## STANDARD VS.2A BORDER STATES

### Locate Virginia and its bordering states

What are some ways that *relative location* can be described?

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.”

### What large bodies of water border Virginia?

#### Bordering bodies of water

- Atlantic Ocean
- Chesapeake Bay



What *states* border Virginia?

#### Bordering states

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

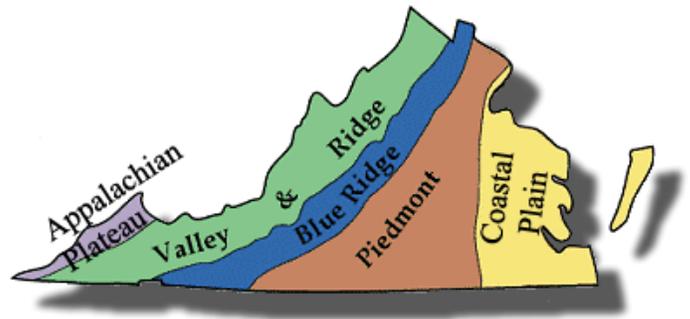
## STANDARD VS.2B VA REGIONS

### Locate and describe Virginia's Coastal Plain (Tidewater), Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau.

Terms to know

- **Fall Line:** The natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions, where waterfalls prevent further travel on the river

What are the *five geographic regions* in Virginia? How do they differ? Where are they located?



#### Geographic regions

Geographic regions have distinctive characteristics. Virginia can be divided into **five** 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 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** (Plateau: Area of elevated land that is flat on top)

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

# STANDARD VS.2c

## VA RIVERS

Locate and identify water features important to the early history of Virginia (Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, James River, York River, Potomac River, Rappahannock River and Lake Drummond and the Dismal Swamp).

*Which water features were important to the early history of Virginia?*

- 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.



*How did water features influence the development of Virginia? How did the flow of rivers affect the settlement of Virginia?*

### 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



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
- George Washington explored and surveyed the Dismal Swamp.

*Where is the Eastern Shore located? What is a peninsula?*

**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.