

Virginia Studies  
STANDARD VS.2d-g  
STUDY GUIDE

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## STANDARD VS.2D NATIVE PEOPLES

Locate three American Indian language groups (the Algonquian, the Siouan, and the Iroquoian) on a map of Virginia.

American Indians were the **first people** who lived in Virginia. They lived in all areas of the state.

*Why are native peoples called **Indians**?*

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

*What evidence is there that American Indians lived in all areas of the state?*

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



*What were the **three major language groups** found in Virginia, and where was each located?*

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 ADAPTATIONS TO ENVIRONMENT

Describe how American Indians related to the climate and their environment to secure food, clothing, and shelter.

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

Virginia Indian cultures have changed over time.

*What are some characteristics of Virginia’s **climate**?*

**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 Indians are referred to as **Eastern Woodland Indians**.

*What are some ways Virginia’s American Indians **related to the climate** and interacted with their **environment to meet their basic needs**?*

**Environmental Connections**

The kinds of food they 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 stored foods from 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 in the winter.

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

## STANDARD VS.2F

### Evidence of Werowocomoco & Jamestown

Describe how archaeologists have recovered new material evidence through sites including Werowocomoco and Jamestown.

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

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

#### Why is *archaeology* important?

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



#### What was *Werowocomoco*?

Werowocomoco was a large Indian town used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before the English settlers came. It was the headquarters of the leader, Powhatan, in 1607.

#### What was *Jamestown*?

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

#### How can new *findings* change the understanding of history?

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

## STANDARD VS.2G CURRENT VA TRIBES

Identify and locate the current state-recognized tribes.

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

Today, **eight American Indian tribes** in Virginia are recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia

*What are the names of the current state-recognized tribes and where in Virginia are they located?*

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

The current state-recognized tribes are located in the following regions:

#### Coastal Plain (Tidewater) Region

- Chickahominy Tribe
- Eastern Chickahominy Tribe
- Mattaponi Tribe
- Nansemond Tribe
- Pamunkey Tribe
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe

#### Piedmont Region

- Monacan Tribe

