

Virginia Studies
STANDARD VS.4
STUDY GUIDE

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STANDARD VS.4.A AGRICULTURE - SLAVERY

Virginia Colony: The importance of agriculture and its influence on the institution of slavery.

*What effect did **agriculture** have on the Virginia colony?*

The success of **tobacco as a cash crop** transformed life in the Virginia colony and **encouraged slavery**.

Terms to know

- **Cash crop:** A crop that is grown to sell for money rather than for use by the growers
- The economy of the Virginia colony depended on **agriculture** as a primary source of **wealth**.



An overseer supervises two enslaved girls
Sketched near Fredericksburg in 1798

*How did **agriculture** in the Virginia colony influence the institution of **slavery**?*

Tobacco became the **most profitable** agricultural product.

- Tobacco was sold in England as a **cash crop**.
- The successful planting of tobacco depended on a **steady and inexpensive source of labor**.
- African men, women, and children were brought to the colony **against their will to work as slaves** on the plantations.
- The Virginia colony became **dependent on slave labor**, and the dependence lasted a long time.

STANDARD VS.4B-- CULTURE REFLECTS ORIGINS

The **culture of colonial Virginia** reflected beliefs, customs, and architecture of **Europeans, Africans, and American Indians** living in those areas.

Although a colony of England, Virginia developed a **unique culture** different from that of England.

How did the culture of colonial Virginia reflect beliefs, customs, and architecture of people Europeans, Africans, and American Indians?

Culture of colonial Virginia

Whenever people settle an area, they change the culture and landscape to **reflect their beliefs, customs, and architecture**.

Examples of **architecture** that reflect different cultures include

- Barns
- Homes
- Places of worship (e.g., churches)

Place names reflecting culture

- English—**Richmond**
- American Indian - **Roanoke**



*Where did the various cultural groups **settle**?*

Settlement areas

- **English and other Europeans** settled primarily in **Coastal Plain** (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions.
- **Germans and Scots-Irish** settled primarily in the **Shenandoah Valley**, which was along the migration route.
- **Africans** were settled primarily in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and **Piedmont** regions where **tobacco agriculture** required a great deal of labor.
- **Prior to** the arrival of the **settlers**, American Indians lived **throughout Virginia**. **After** the settlers arrived, most were **forced inland**.

Migration and living in new areas caused people to **adapt old customs to their new environment**.

STANDARD VS.4c --

CAPITAL MOVES

The reason for the relocation of Virginia's capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg to Richmond.



A variety of factors explain the reasons for moving Virginia's capital.

What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg?

- **Drinking water** was **contaminated** by seepage of salt water.
- **Unhealthy** living conditions caused **diseases**.
- **Fire** destroyed wooden and brick buildings at Jamestown.

What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond?

- Population was **moving westward**.
- Richmond was a more **central** location.
- Moving to Richmond **increased** the **distance** from **attack** by the British.

England became **Great Britain** in the early 1700s.

STANDARD VS.4D --

MONEY, BARTER, CREDIT



Money, barter, and credit were used.

Money was not often used in the early Virginia colony.

What forms of exchange were used in the Virginia colony?

Terms to know

- **Money:** A medium of exchange (currency, which includes coins and paper bills)
- **Barter:** Trading/exchanging of goods and services without the use of money
- **Credit:** Buying a good or service now and paying for it later
- **Debt:** A good or service owed to another

- **Saving:** Money put away to save or to spend at a later time

Few people had **paper money** and coins to use to buy goods and services.

Barter was commonly used instead of money.

Tobacco was used as **money**. A tobacco farmer could use his tobacco to pay for goods and services.

Farmers and other consumers could also buy goods and services on **credit** and pay their **debts** when their crops were harvested and sold.

Colonial Virginia had **no banks**

STANDARD VS.4E ---

EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE COLONY

Resources were used in colonial Virginia to produce the goods and services that people needed.

Everyday life was **different** for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in colonial Virginia.

How did resources influence the food, housing, and clothing in colonial Virginia?

People living in **colonial Virginia** depended on **natural, human, and capital resources** to produce the goods and services they needed.

Food:

- Food choices were **limited**
- Meals were made of **local produce** and meats

Housing:

- Most people lived in **one-room homes** with dirt floors
- Some people (farmers) lived in large houses

Clothing:

- Households **made** their own clothes
- Most clothing was made of **cotton, wool, and leather**

How was everyday life different for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in colonial Virginia?

Most **white Virginians** made their living from the land as **small farmers**. A few owned large farms (plantations).

Most **enslaved African Americans** worked **tobacco, crops, and livestock**. Enslaved African Americans had **no rights**.

Many **free African Americans** owned their own business and property, but were **denied most rights**.