

Virginia Studies VS.2

VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHY - (new 2023 standards)

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VS.2a: Archaeology and Virginia's Indigenous History

a) describe how archaeologists have recovered artifacts from important places in the history of Indigenous people including, but not limited to Werowocomoco

? What is archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of people **from the past** by uncovering and studying things they left behind, like tools, pottery, or homes.

These objects are called **artifacts**.



? What do archaeologists do?

- They **dig** carefully in areas where people once lived.
- They find and **study artifacts** to learn what **life was like long ago**.
- Each new discovery helps us better understand the **history of Virginia's Indigenous People**.

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Virginia's first known **capital was Werowocomoco**, located on the north bank of the river known as the Pamunkey, later renamed the **York River** by the English.

- **Werowocomoco** was once a **powerful capital** for the **Powhatan** people.
- **Werowocomoco** was located on the north bank of the river known as the **Pamunkey**, later renamed the **York River** by the English.
- Archaeologists have found many important **artifacts** at Werowocomoco that help tell the **story of early Virginia civilizations**.

VS.2b: Indigenous Language Groups in Virginia

b) describe Virginia's three most prominent Indigenous language groups (e.g., the Algonquian, the Siouan, and the Iroquoian)



Virginia's **Indigenous People** spoke many languages, but the **three most prominent language groups** were:

1. Algonquian

- Spoken mostly in the **Tidewater** (Coastal Plain) region.
- **Powhatan** tribes were part of this group.

2. Siouan

- Spoken in the **Piedmont** region (central Virginia).
- The **Monacan** people spoke a Siouan language.

3. Iroquoian

- Spoken in **southwestern Virginia** and in areas near the **Great Dismal Swamp**.
- The **Cherokee** and **Nottoway** were part of this group.

Remember: There is **no single language or culture** that represents all Indigenous People. Virginia's **Indigenous communities** were and still are **diverse**.

VS.2c: Diversity Among the Indigenous Nations

c) describe the diversity among the Indigenous nations

Indigenous people were the **first** to live in Virginia. They lived and continue to live **in all areas** of what we now call Virginia.

Indigenous people are both **individuals** and members of a **tribal group**; a **tribal nation** may comprise many tribes.

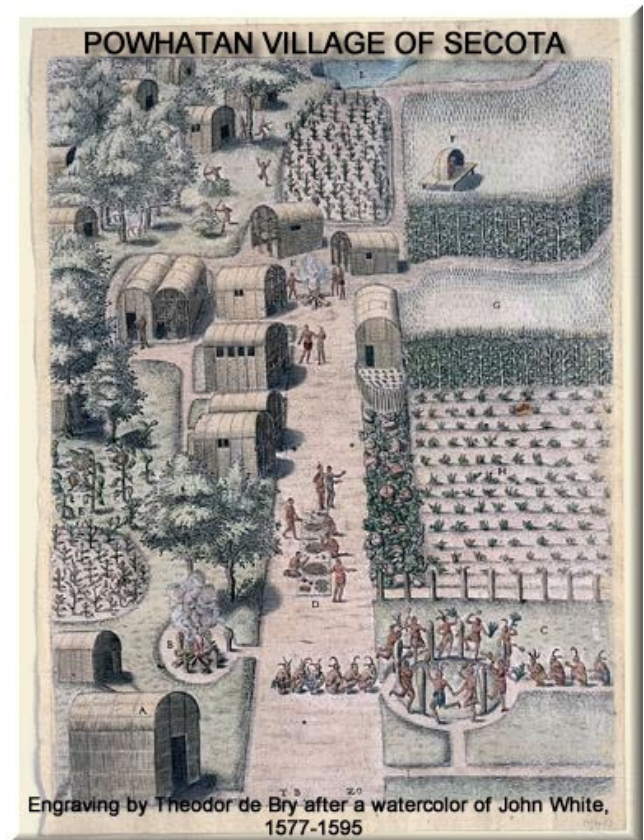
Virginia's **Indigenous People** were not all the same. They were **diverse** in many ways:

- They had **different languages, traditions, and beliefs**.
- Each tribe or nation had its **own government** and way of life.
- Some groups were part of **larger tribal nations** that included many smaller tribes.
- There is **no single** culture or language that represents **all Indigenous people**.

Like people today, they were individuals and members of communities, and they passed down **knowledge, stories, and skills** through generations.

VS.2d: Indigenous People and the Environment (Around 1600)

d) describe the relationships and interactions of Virginia's Indigenous People and their environment, circa 1600



Long ago, Virginia's Indigenous People lived in ways that respected and **depended on nature**.

They **adapted to the climate and the environment** to meet their basic needs.

Many lived near **rivers**, which made for good **farming**, good **fishing**, and easy **travel**.

Around the year 1600:

Most lived near **rivers**, which gave them:

- Water** to drink
- Fish** to eat
- Fertile land** for growing crops like corn, beans, and squash
- Easy **travel routes** for trading or visiting other groups

They used **what was around them**:

- **Animal skins** for clothing
- **Wood and bark** for building homes
- **Rocks and bones** for tools

They **adapted** to the **climate and seasons**, and they deeply understood how their environment affected their culture and traditions.

VS.2e: Indigenous People in the Present Day

e.) describe the lives and cultures of Virginia's Indigenous People leading to the present day

Virginia's Indigenous People are not just part of history—they are **living communities** today!



**Annual Nansemond Indian
Pow Wow**

- They have **adapted** over time, just like other cultural groups.
- They faced **challenges** like European **colonization, migration**, and changes to their lands.
- Today, many tribes have **state and federal recognition**, thanks to years of advocacy and education.
- Indigenous communities continue to **celebrate their heritage**, language, arts, and traditions, while also participating in modern life.

Learning about Indigenous history from their own perspective helps us see a more complete and respectful view of Virginia's past and present.