

VS.2 VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHY, NATIVE PEOPLES

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

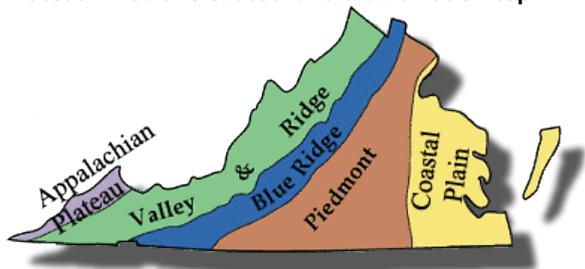
STANDARD VS.2B VIRGINIA'S FIVE REGIONS

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 **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

- 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