

VS.2D - G VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHY, NATIVE PEOPLES

STANDARD VS.2D

AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGE GROUPS

American Indians were the **first people** who lived in Virginia.

American Indians lived in **all areas** of the state.

There were **three major American Indian language groups** in Virginia.

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

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

American Indian identities have always been closely **connected to the land**. American Indians did not believe in **land ownership**.



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

INDIANS ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD, CLOTHING SHELTER

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

Many American Indians lived in towns situated along the **rivers**, which made for good **farming**, good **fishing**, and easy **travel**.

Virginia Indian **cultures** have **changed** over time.

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

Environmental Connections

The kinds of **food** American Indians 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 foods stored 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.

Native Americans tried to **escape** from the English colonists by hiding and living in the **Dismal Swamp**.

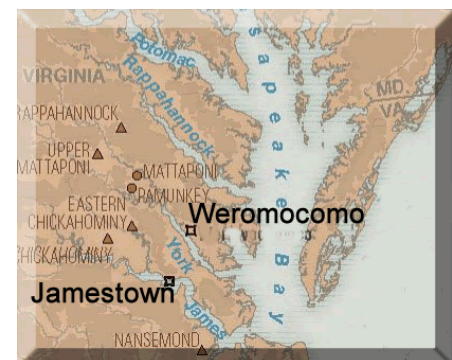
Today, most native peoples live like other Americans. Their **cultures** have **changed** over time.

STANDARD VS.2F

EVIDENCE AT WEROWOCOMOCO & JAMESTOWN

Archaeology is another way that helps people understand the past.

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



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

Werowocomoco was a large Indian town located on the **York** River, used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before the

English settlers came. It was the **headquarters** of the leader, **Powhatan**, in 1607.

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

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

STANDARD VS.2G INDIANS IN VIRGINIA TODAY

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

Virginia Indians have contributed to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation.

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

- Virginia Indians live and work as **modern Americans**.
- Many practice **ancient traditions** and crafts while incorporating new customs over time.
- American Indians and their culture were greatly **affected by white European colonization**. They **intermingled** with the English and Africans.
- The current state-recognized tribes are located in regions **throughout Virginia**.

The tribes maintain tribal museums and lands on which they hold public festivals called **powwows**.

- The **powwow** is a way of teaching American Indians and visitors about their culture, past and present.

Today, Virginia Indians maintain their **strong cultural heritage** through drumming, singing, dance, art, jewelry, clothing, crafts, pottery, and storytelling.

Virginia Indians **contribute to American society** as active citizens who vote, hold office, and work in communities.