

Virginia Studies  
STANDARD VS.2  
STUDY GUIDE

Condensed format created by SOLpass. [www.solpass.org](http://www.solpass.org)

## STANDARD VS.2a Border states

### Locate Virginia and its bordering states

What are some ways that *relative location* can be described?

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.”

### What large bodies of water border Virginia?

#### Bordering bodies of water

- Atlantic Ocean
- Chesapeake Bay



What *states* border Virginia?

#### Bordering states

- Maryland
- West Virginia
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- North Carolina

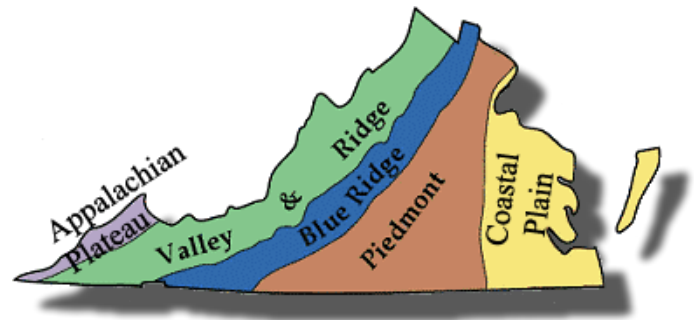
## STANDARD VS.2B VA REGIONS

### Locate and describe Virginia's Coastal Plain (Tidewater), Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau.

Terms to know

- **Fall Line:** The natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions, where waterfalls prevent further travel on the river

What are the *five geographic regions* in Virginia? How do they differ? Where are they located?



Geographic regions

Geographic regions have distinctive characteristics. Virginia can be divided into **five** 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** (Plateau: Area of elevated land that is flat on top)

- Located in Southwest Virginia
- Only a small part of the plateau is located in Virginia

# STANDARD VS.2c

## VA RIVERS

Locate and identify water features important to the early history of Virginia (Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, James River, York River, Potomac River, Rappahannock River and Lake Drummond and the Dismal Swamp).

*Which water features were important to the early history of Virginia?*

- 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.



*How did water features influence the development of Virginia? How did the flow of rivers affect the settlement of Virginia?*

### 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
- George Washington explored and surveyed the Dismal Swamp.

*Where is the Eastern Shore located? What is a peninsula?*

**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.

---

## STANDARD VS.2D

### NATIVE PEOPLES

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

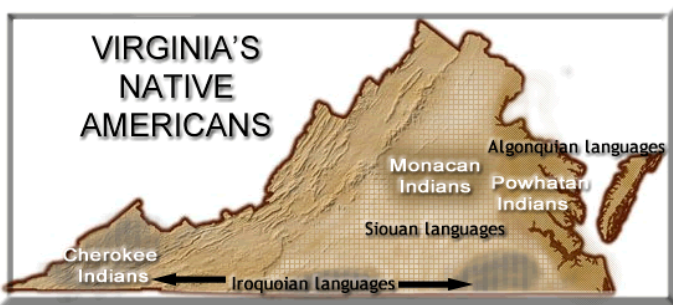
American Indians were the **first people** who lived in Virginia. They lived in all areas of the state.

*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

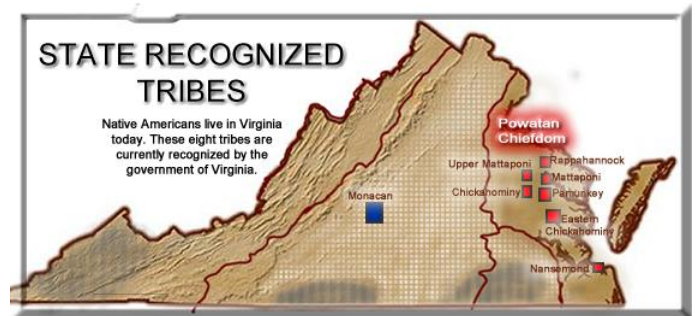
Identify and locate the current state-recognized tribes.

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