

Geography of Virginia Study Guide

Virginia's Bordering States and Bodies of Water:

Virginia is located on the eastern coast of the United States. Virginia's location can also be explained in relative terms. **Relative location** is described by using terms that show connections between two places, such as *near*, *next to*, and *bordering*.



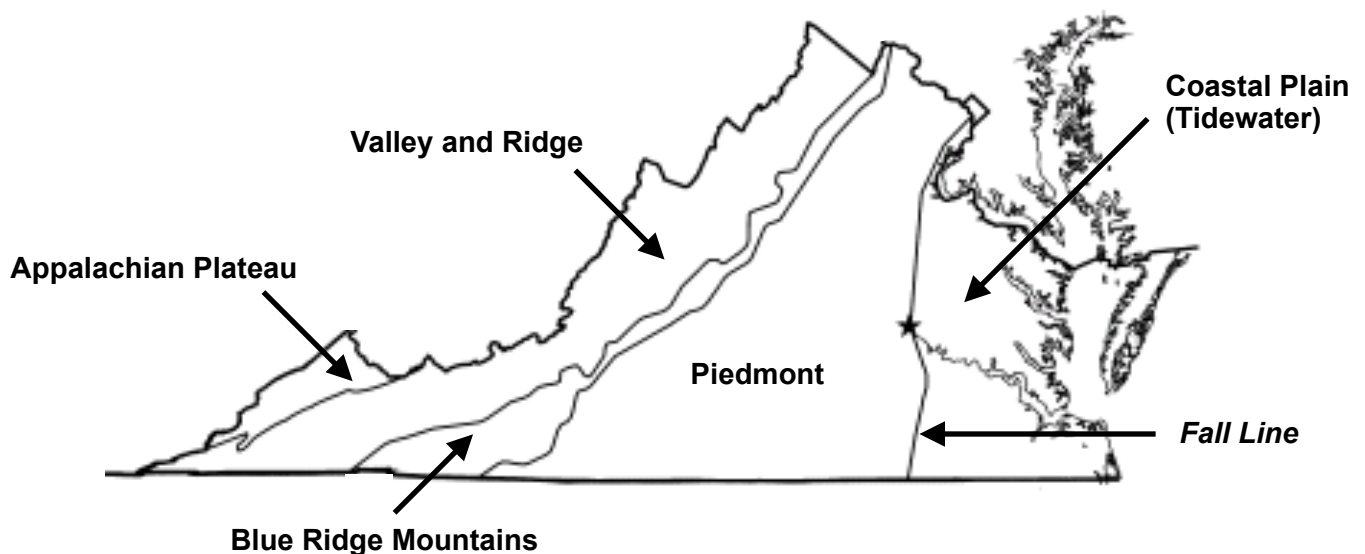
Two large **bodies of water** border Virginia: the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay.

Virginia has **five bordering states**: Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.



Virginia's Five Geographic Regions:

Virginia can be divided into five geographic regions.



The Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions are separated by a natural border known as the Fall Line. Along the Fall Line, waterfalls prevent further travel on the river.



Each region in the state has distinctive, or special, characteristics.

Region	Land Features	Location
Coastal Plain (Tidewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flat land• includes the Eastern Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• near the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay• east of the Fall Line
Piedmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rolling hills• the name means “land at the foot of mountains”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• west of the Fall Line
Blue Ridge Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• old, rounded mountains• part of the Appalachian mountain system• source of many rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• between the Piedmont and Valley & Ridge regions
Valley and Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• valleys separated by ridges• includes the Great Valley of Virginia• part of the Appalachian mountain system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• west of the Blue Ridge Mountains
Appalachian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• plateau: an area of elevated land that is flat on top• only a small part of the Appalachian Plateau is located in Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southwest Virginia



Appalachian Plateau



Valley & Ridge



Blue Ridge Mountains



Piedmont



Coastal Plain (Tidewater)

Virginia's Water Features:

Virginia has many water features that were especially important to the early history of Virginia. For example, the Atlantic Ocean provided transportation links between Virginia and other places, such as Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. The Chesapeake Bay provided a safe harbor and was a source of food and transportation.



the Atlantic Ocean



the Chesapeake Bay

Virginia has **four major rivers** and many smaller rivers. The four major rivers flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Many early cities developed near these rivers along the Fall Line. Each river was a source of food for the people who lived nearby. The rivers also provided pathways for the exploration and settlement of Virginia.

Large cities are still located along the four major rivers:

- James River: Richmond and Jamestown
- York River: Yorktown
- Potomac River: Alexandria
- Rappahannock River: Fredericksburg



the James River

Other interesting water features in Virginia include the Dismal Swamp and Lake Drummond. Both are located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region.

- The Dismal Swamp is a swamp with a variety of wildlife. George Washington explored and surveyed this area!
- Lake Drummond is a shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp.



the Dismal Swamp



Lake Drummond

Virginia also has a number of peninsulas. A **peninsula** is a piece of land bordered by water on three sides. Virginia's four major rivers are separated by peninsulas.

- The Eastern Shore is a large peninsula bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. It is located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region.



the Eastern Shore

Name: _____

Geography of Virginia Review Worksheet

1. Choose an object near you. Describe its relative location, using at least three different terms (such as *next to*, *under*, and *near*).

2. What two bodies of water border Virginia? Use the map below to identify them.



1: _____

2: _____

3. Use the letters in the map above to label Virginia's five bordering states.

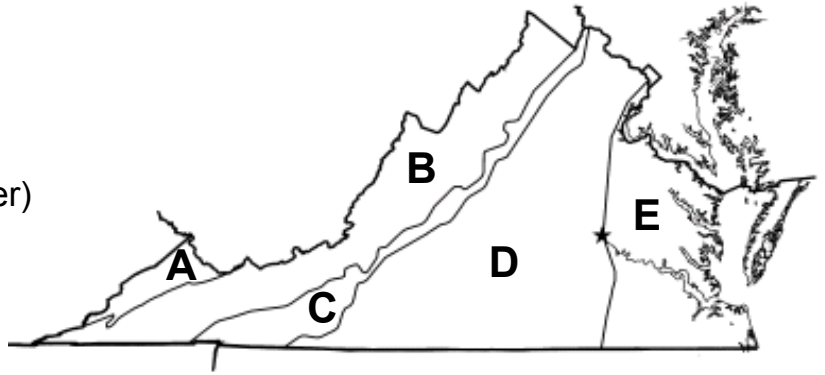
_____ Kentucky _____ Maryland _____ North Carolina

_____ Tennessee _____ West Virginia

4. What is a mnemonic device you can use to remember the names of the bordering states?

5. Use the map to label Virginia's five regions.

- _____ Appalachian Plateau
- _____ Blue Ridge Mountains
- _____ Coastal Plain (Tidewater)
- _____ Piedmont
- _____ Valley and Ridge



6. Use the map in #5 to trace the Fall Line. How does the Fall Line affect the rivers that cross it?

7. Match each region to the type of land features it has.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ flat land | A. Appalachian Plateau |
| _____ valleys separated by ridges | B. Blue Ridge Mountains |
| _____ rolling hills | C. Coastal Plain (Tidewater) |
| _____ flat, elevated land | D. Piedmont |
| _____ old, rounded mountains | E. Valley and Ridge |

8. What does "Piedmont" mean?

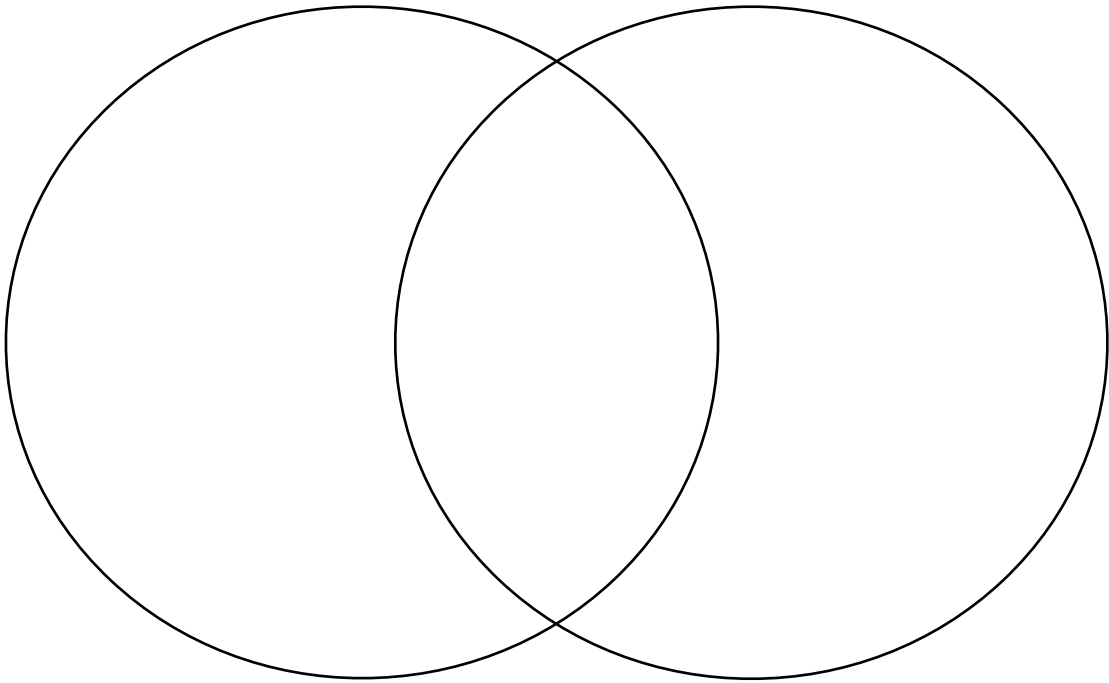
9. In which region do a number of Virginia's rivers begin?

10. The _____ and the _____ regions are part of the Appalachian mountain system.

11. The Eastern Shore is located in which region?

12. An area of elevated land that is flat on top is called a _____.

13. Pick any two regions and complete the Venn diagram below.



14. What water feature provided transportation links between Virginia and other places, such as Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean?

15. Explain two ways in which the Chesapeake Bay was important to the early history of Virginia.

16. Virginia's four major rivers flow into the _____
_____.

17. Each river in Virginia was a source of food in early Virginia. What is another reason the rivers were important?

18. What is a peninsula?

19. What separates the Eastern Shore from the mainland of Virginia?

Directions: Use the words in the word bank to complete the sentences below. *Hint:* not all of the words will be used!

Alexandria	York River	Lake Drummond	Eastern Shore
James River	Fredericksburg	Jamestown	Yorktown
Dismal Swamp	Potomac River	Rappahannock River	Richmond

20. Two cities located along the James River are _____ and _____.

21. The _____, located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region, has a variety of wildlife.

22. Yorktown is located along the _____.

23. _____ is a shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp.

24. _____ is located along the Potomac River.

25. Fredericksburg is located along the _____.

Geography of Virginia Review Worksheet

1. Choose an object near you. Describe its relative location, using at least three different terms (such as *next to*, *under*, and *near*).

Answers will vary.

2. What two bodies of water border Virginia? Use the map below to identify them.



1: the Chesapeake Bay

2: the Atlantic Ocean

3. Use the letters in the map above to label Virginia's five bordering states.

C Kentucky A Maryland E North Carolina

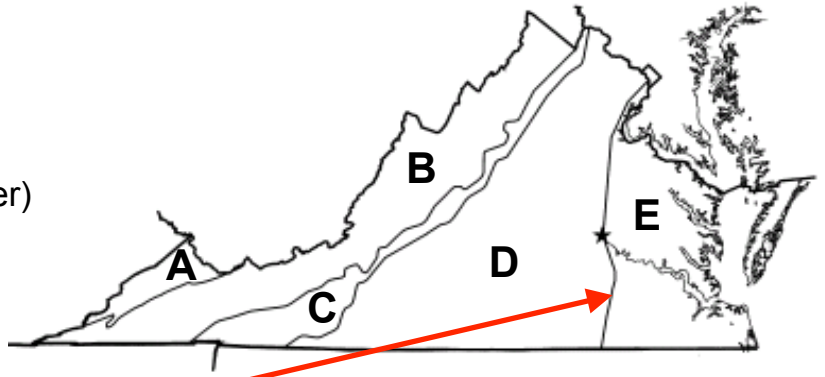
D Tennessee B West Virginia

4. What is a mnemonic device you can use to remember the names of the bordering states?

Answers will vary.

5. Use the map to label Virginia's five regions.

- A Appalachian Plateau
- C Blue Ridge Mountains
- E Coastal Plain (Tidewater)
- D Piedmont
- B Valley and Ridge



6. Use the map in #5 to trace the Fall Line. How does the Fall Line affect the rivers that cross it?

Along the Fall Line, waterfalls prevent further travel on the rivers.

7. Match each region to the type of land features it has.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u> C </u> flat land | A. Appalachian Plateau |
| <u> E </u> valleys separated by ridges | B. Blue Ridge Mountains |
| <u> D </u> rolling hills | C. Coastal Plain (Tidewater) |
| <u> A </u> flat, elevated land | D. Piedmont |
| <u> B </u> old, rounded mountains | E. Valley and Ridge |

8. What does "Piedmont" mean?

"Piedmont" means 'land at the foot of mountains.'

9. In which region do a number of Virginia's rivers begin?

The Blue Ridge Mountains are the source of many rivers.

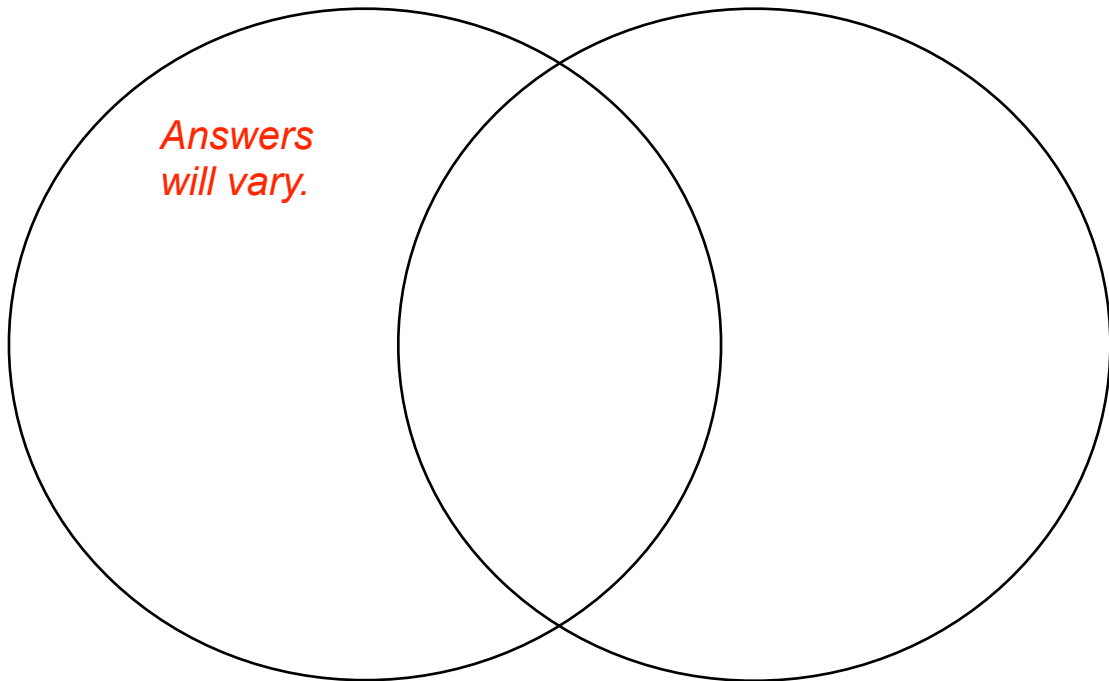
10. The Blue Ridge Mountains and the Valley and Ridge regions are part of the Appalachian mountain system.

11. The Eastern Shore is located in which region?

The Eastern Shore is located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region.

12. An area of elevated land that is flat on top is called a plateau.

13. Pick any two regions and complete the Venn diagram below.



14. What water feature provided transportation links between Virginia and other places, such as Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean?

The Atlantic Ocean provided transportation links between Virginia and other places.

15. Explain two ways in which the Chesapeake Bay was important to the early history of Virginia.

The Chesapeake Bay provided a safe harbor. It was also a source of food and transportation.

16. Virginia's four major rivers flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

17. Each river in Virginia was a source of food in early Virginia. What is another reason the rivers were important?

Virginia's were important in the early history of Virginia because they provided pathways for the exploration and settlement of Virginia.

18. What is a peninsula?

A peninsula is a piece of land bordered on three sides by water.

19. What separates the Eastern Shore from the mainland of Virginia?

The Chesapeake Bay separates the Eastern Shore from the rest of Virginia.

Directions: Use the words in the word bank to complete the sentences below. *Hint:* not all of the words will be used!

Alexandria	York River	Lake Drummond	Eastern Shore
James River	Fredericksburg	Jamestown	Yorktown
Dismal Swamp	Potomac River	Rappahannock River	Richmond

20. Two cities located along the James River are Jamestown and Richmond.

21. The Dismal Swamp, located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region, has a variety of wildlife.

22. Yorktown is located along the York River.

23. Lake Drummond is a shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp.

24. Alexandria is located along the Potomac River.

25. Fredericksburg is located along the Rappahannock River.

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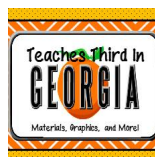
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Alyssa Bradley, 2015

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