

VS 2 (part 1)

Virginia Geography



Virginia is an incredible place full of history and natural beauty. Did you know that the first permanent English settlement was right here in Virginia? **(Years before the Pilgrims!)** This year you are going to learn about our state and its rich history, so let's begin our amazing journey!

Let's start out by learning about our state's **physical geography**.



Physical Geography is what the surface of Virginia looks like.

There are **5 states** that border Virginia.

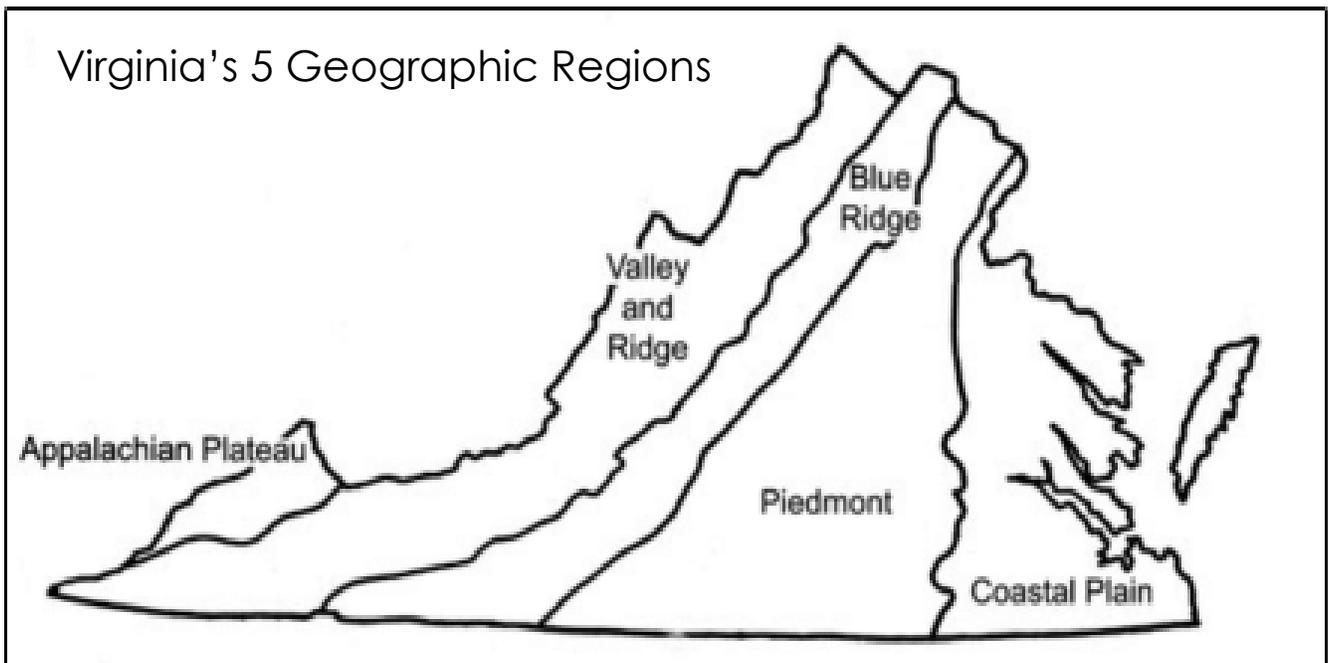
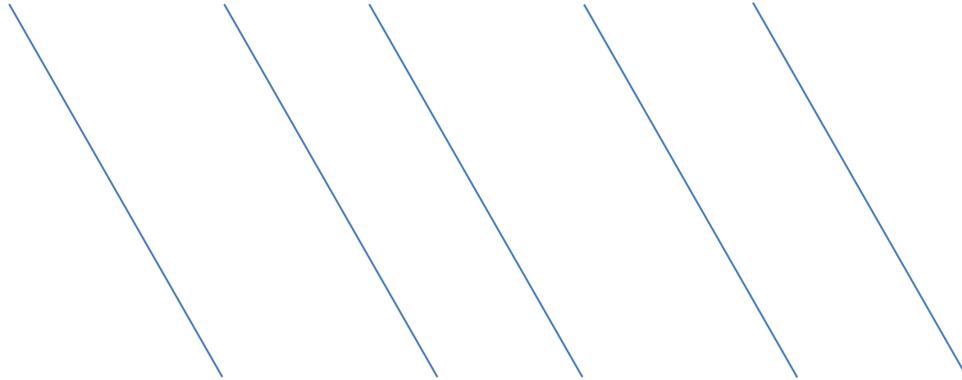
They are:





Here is a silly sentence to help you remember the bordering states starting at the top and going around counter clock-wise

Mustard **W**ith **K**etchup **T**astes **N**asty



Virginia is divided up into 5 geographic regions. Each of these regions has common physical characteristics.

Appalachian Plateau (this region has areas of elevated land that are flat on top. These are not mountains)

 Located in Southwest Virginia

 Only a small part of the Appalachian Plateau is in Virginia

Valley and Ridge (this region has valleys and ridges)

- 🔨 part of the Appalachian Mountain system
- 🔨 includes the Great Valley of Virginia and other valleys separated by ridges
- 🔨 located **west** of the Blue Ridge Mountains



Blue Ridge (this region has mountains)

- 🔨 part of the Appalachian Mountain system
- 🔨 old rounded mountains
- 🔨 many rivers begin here

Piedmont (this region has rolling hills)

- 🔨 Piedmont means “land at the foot of the mountains”
- 🔨 **west** of the fall line

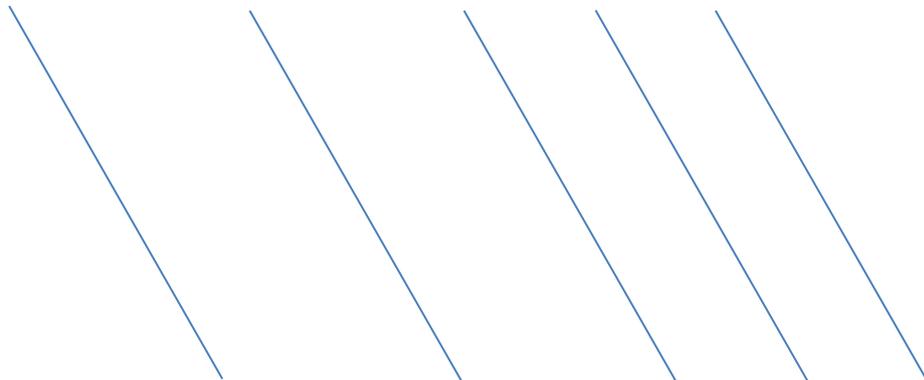
Coastal Plain also called the **Tidewater** (this region has mostly flat land)

- 🔨 located near Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay
- 🔨 Includes Eastern Shore
- 🔨 has many peninsulas
- 🔨 **east** of Fall Line



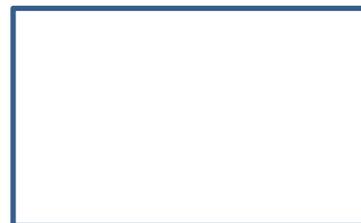
Here is a way to remember the regions from west to east:

Amazing **V**irginians **B**uy **P**epsi **C**ola



The Fall Line is the natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and the Piedmont regions, where waterfalls (rapids) prevent further travel on the rivers. Many early settlers reached the Fall Line and decided rather than go up the rapids they would settle at the Fall Line.

Peninsula: a piece of land bordered by water on 3 sides



The two large bodies of water that border Virginia are

_____ and _____

Atlantic Ocean

 provided transportation link between Virginia and other places (Europe, Africa, & Caribbean)

Chesapeake Bay

 provided a safe harbor  source of food and transportation

Eastern Shore

 a peninsula that is bordered to the west by the Chesapeake Bay and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean

 part of the Coastal Plain/Tidewater Region

Potomac River (a lot of this river is the border between Virginia and Maryland)

 flows into the Chesapeake Bay

 **Alexandria** is located along the Potomac River



Alex likes potatoes

Rappahannock River

🌈 flows into the Chesapeake Bay

🌈 **Fredericksburg** is located along the Rappahannock River



Freddie likes to rap

York River

🌈 flows into the Chesapeake Bay

🌈 **Yorktown** is located on the York River

James River

🌈 flows into the Chesapeake Bay

🌈 **Richmond & Jamestown** are located along the James River



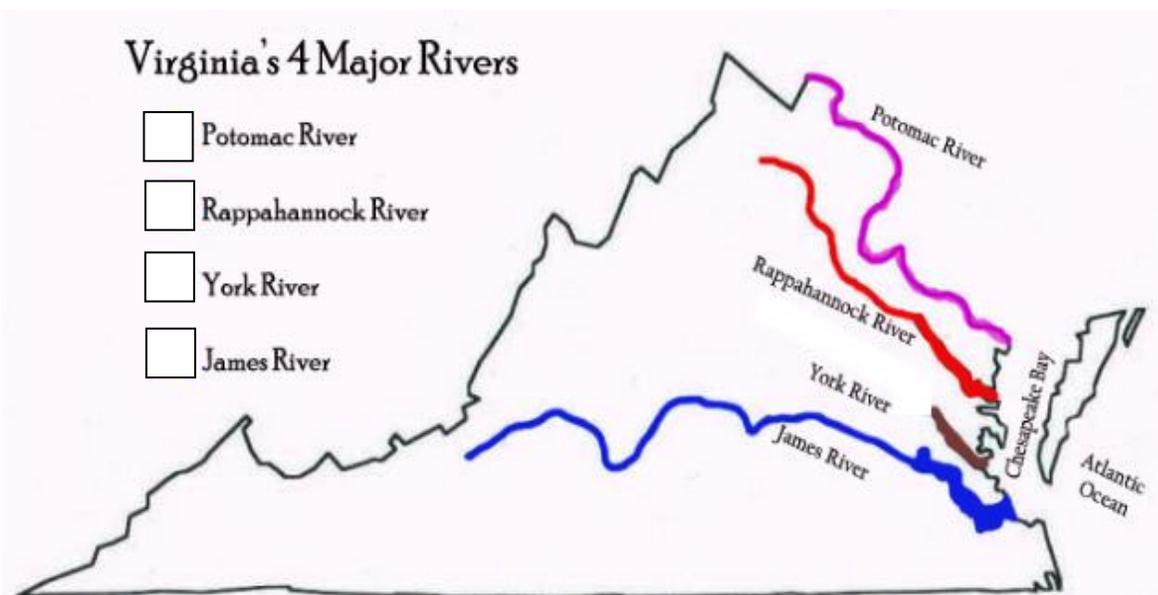
James is rich

Each of these rivers was a source of food and provided a pathway for exploration and settlement of Virginia



Here's a way to remember the rivers from north to south:

Please **R**emember **Y**our **J**acket



Lake Drummond

- 🌈 located in the Coastal Plain region
- 🌈 shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp

Dismal Swamp

- 🌈 located in the Coastal Plain/Tidewater
- 🌈 has a variety of wildlife

