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

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
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
- 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
- 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.10A  
**Virginia Government**

Three branches of Virginia government and the function of each.

Virginia state government is made up of three parts (branches) that ensure Virginia laws agree with the state constitution.

What are the three branches of government in Virginia and what are the powers of each branch?

The government of Virginia is divided into three branches.

- **The General Assembly** is the legislative branch of the Virginia government that makes state laws. It is divided into two parts—the Senate and the House of Delegates.
- **The governor** heads the executive branch of the state government. The executive branch makes sure that state laws are carried out.
- **The judicial branch** is the state’s court system. The judicial branch decides cases about people accused of breaking the law and whether or not a law agrees with Virginia’s constitution.

---

STANDARD VS.10B  
**Products & Industries**

Major products and industries of Virginia’s five geographic regions.

What are the major products and industries of each region in Virginia?

The state of Virginia can be divided into five geographic regions. Different products and industries characterize each region.

- **Coastal Plain (Tidewater)**
  - Products: Seafood, peanuts
  - Industries: Shipbuilding, tourism, military bases

- **Piedmont**
  - Products: Tobacco products, information technology
  - Industries: Federal and state government, farming, horse industry

- **Blue Ridge Mountains**
  - Products: Apples
  - Industries: Recreation, farming

- **Valley and Ridge**
  - Products: Poultry, apples, dairy, beef
  - Industries: Farming

- **Appalachian Plateau**
  - Products: Coal
  - Industries: Coal mining