INTRODUCTION TO VIRGINIA STUDIES

FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF VIRGINIA (VS.2b, VS.10b)

How do the five geographic regions differ, and where are they located?

Coastal Plain (Tidewater): flat land located near Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay (includes the Eastern Shore); east of the Fall Line
- Products - seafood
- Industries - shipbuilding, tourism, federal military installations

Piedmont: land at the foot of mountains; rolling hills west of the Fall Line
- Products - tobacco products, information technology
- Industries - technology, federal and state government, farming, textiles

Blue Ridge Mountains: old, rounded mountains that are part of Appalachian Mountain system. They are located between the Piedmont and Valley and Ridge regions and are a source of many rivers.
- Products - apples
- Industries - recreation

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.) They are located west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Products - poultry, apples
- Industries - farming

Appalachian Plateau: (area of elevated land that is flat on top); located in Southwest Virginia; only a small part of plateau is located in Virginia
- Products - coal
- Industries - coal mining

What are the three major American Indian language groups found in Virginia? (VS.2d)

1. Iroquoian
   - Spoken in southwestern Virginia and in southern Virginia near what is today North Carolina. The Cherokee were in this group.

2. Siouan
   - Spoken primarily in the Piedmont region.

3. Algonquian
   - Spoken primarily in the Tidewater region. The Powhatans were in this group.

Why did the relationship between the Jamestown settlers and the Powhatans change? (VS.3g)

The Powhatans traded food, furs, and leather with the English in exchange for tools, pots, guns, and other goods.

The Powhatans contributed to the survival of the Jamestown settlers by:

1. Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, believed the English and American Indians (First Americans) could live in harmony. Pocahontas began a friendship with the colonists that helped them survive.
2. The Powhatans introduced new crops to the English, including corn and tobacco.

As time passed, the Powhatan people realized the English settlement would continue to grow. They saw the colonists as invaders that would take over their land.

What are First Americans called Indians? (VS.2d)

Christopher Columbus called the people he found in the lands he discovered “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.

Why were water features important to the early history of Virginia? (VS.2c)

Each river was a source of food and provided a pathway for exploration and settlement of Virginia.

James River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Richmond and Jamestown are located along the James River.

York River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Yorktown is located along the York River.

Rappahanock River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Fredericksburg is located on the Rappahanock River.

Potomac River
- Flows into the Chesapeake Bay
- Alexandria is located along the Potomac River.

Fall Line (VS.2b): The natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions, where waterfalls prevent further travel on the river.

What is relative location? (VS.2a)

It may be described using terms that show connections between two places such as, “next to,” “near,” and “bordering.”

Which states border Virginia?

What bodies of water border Virginia?

Atlantic Ocean
- Provided transportation links between Virginia and other places (e.g., Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean)

Chesapeake Bay
- Provided a safe harbor and was a source of food and transportation
Virginia’s Indians are referred to as Eastern Woodland Indians (VS.2e)
- The kinds of food they ate, the clothing they wore, and the shelters they had depended upon the seasons.
- Animal skins (deerskin) were used for clothing.
- Shelter was made from materials around them.

The climate in Virginia is relatively mild with distinct seasons - spring, summer, fall, and winter - resulting in a variety of vegetation. (VS.2e)

What are some ways they adapted to the climate and interacted with their environment to meet their basic needs?

Winter: hunted birds and animals
Spring: fished and picked berries
Summer: grew crops
Fall: harvested crops

JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA

What were the reasons for English colonization in America? (VS.3a)
- England hoped to find silver and gold in America.
- An American settlement would furnish raw materials that could not be grown or obtained in England, while opening new markets for trade.

What were the reasons why the Jamestown settlers came to America? (VS.3a)
- Jamestown was primarily an economic venture.
- The stockholders of the Virginia Company of London financed the settlement of Jamestown.
- Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America in 1607.

Where is Jamestown located? (VS.3b)
When the settlers arrived in 1607, Jamestown was located on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River. Today, Jamestown is located on an island in the James River.

Why did the settlers choose the site at Jamestown? (VS.3b)
- The location could easily be defended from Spanish attack by sea.
- The site they chose to live on was marshy and lacked safe drinking water.
- The settlers lacked some skills necessary to provide for themselves.
- Many settlers died of starvation and disease.

What changes took place to ensure survival?
- Arrival of two supply ships
- Forced work program and strong leadership of Captain John Smith
- Emphasis on self-sustaining agriculture

The King of England granted charters to the Virginia Company of London to settle in North America. (VS.3c)

The first charter of the Virginia Company of London established companies to begin colonies in the New World.

The charters extended English rights to the colonists.

In 1619, the governor of Virginia called a meeting of the Virginia Assembly.

The Assembly included:
- the governor
- the governor’s council
- two citizen representatives (called “burgesses”) from each of the divisions of Virginia (only white adult male landowners were considered citizens)

By the 1640s, the burgesses became a separate legislative body called the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Why was the Virginia House of Burgesses important?
- The Virginia House of Burgesses was the first elected legislative body in America giving settlers the opportunity to control their own government.
- It became the General Assembly of Virginia, which continues to this day.

America’s First Government System 1619 (VS.3d)

The arrival of Africans made it possible to expand the tobacco economy.

Indentured servants: people who worked for 5 to 7 years to pay for their passage to the colonies and then they were free.

The arrival of women in 1620 made it possible for the settlers to establish families and a more permanent settlement at Jamestown.

What was the impact of the arrival of Africans on the Jamestown settlement?
- Africans arrived in Jamestown against their will.
- It is believed that they arrived as baptized Christians and therefore, were labeled indentured servants.

What was the impact of the arrival of women on the Jamestown settlement?
- The arrival of women in 1620 made it possible for the settlers to establish families and a more permanent settlement at Jamestown.

What hardships did the Jamestown settlers face? (VS.3f)
- The arrival of two supply ships
- Forced work program and strong leadership of Captain John Smith
- Emphasis on self-sustaining agriculture

2007, Rebecca Mills, Supervisor of Social Studies, Spotsylvania County Schools
Although a colony of England, Virginia developed a unique culture different from that of England.

**How do cultural landscapes reflect beliefs, customs, and architecture of people?** (VS.4b)
Whenever people settle an area, they change the landscape to reflect the beliefs, customs, and architecture of their culture.
Examples of cultural landscapes include:

- **Barns**
- **Churches**
- **Homes**

**Where did the various cultural groups settle?**
- The **English** settled primarily in Tidewater and Piedmont regions.
- **Germans** and Scotch-Irish settled primarily in the Shenandoah Valley, which was along the migration route.
- **Africans** settled primarily in the Tidewater and Piedmont regions, where agriculture required a great deal of labor.
- **American** Indians (First Americans) were primarily in the Tidewater and Piedmont regions and the Appalachian Plateau, where their traditional homelands were located.

**Money, Barter, and Credit Vocabulary** (VS.4d)

- **money**: a medium of exchange (bills, coins)
- **barter**: trading/exchanging of goods and services without the use of money
- **credit**: buying a good or service now and paying for it later
- **debt**: a good or service owed to another
- **saving**: money put away to save or to spend at a later time

**Colonial Virginia had no banks. Barter was commonly used instead of money.**

- Tobacco was used as money. A tobacco farmer could use his tobacco to pay for goods and services.
- Farmers and other consumers could also buy goods and services on credit and pay their debts when their crops were harvested and sold.
How did the English Parliament and the colonists disagree over how the colonies should be governed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Colonists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Parliament believed it had legal authority in the colonies.</td>
<td>• Colonists believed their local assemblies had legal authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parliament believed it had the right to tax the colonies.</td>
<td>• Colonists believed they should not be taxed since they had no representation in Parliament.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why is the Declaration of Independence an important document? (VS.5a)
The Declaration of Independence states:
• the authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings
• all people are created equal and have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
Thomas Jefferson authored the Declaration of Independence.

Revolutionary War (VS.5b)
What contributions did Virginians make during the Revolutionary War era?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patriot</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Loyalist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginians who served in the Continental Army and fought against the English.</td>
<td>Virginians who did not take sides with England or the Continental Army.</td>
<td>Virginians who remained loyal to England.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

African Americans from Virginia were divided about the war. Some slaves fought for the English because they were promised freedom. James Armistead LaFayette, a slave from Virginia, served in the Continental Army and was given his freedom after the war. Women took on more responsibility during the war.

George Washington provided military leadership by serving as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Thomas Jefferson provided political leadership by expressing the reasons for colonial independence from England in the Declaration of Independence.

Patrick Henry inspired patriots from other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation by saying, “...Give me liberty or give me death.”

Documents that influenced the Constitution of the United States (VS.6b)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia Declaration of Rights</th>
<th>Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Virginia Declaration of Rights states that all Virginians should have certain rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press. George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.</td>
<td>The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom states that all people should be free to worship as they please. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The document became the basis for the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States of America.</td>
<td>This document was the basis for the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. The First Amendment protects religious freedom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yorktown (VS.5c)
What was the importance of the American victory at Yorktown?
The American victory at Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the English army, bringing an end to the war.

James Madison (VS.6a)
• James Madison believed in the importance of having a United States constitution.
• He kept detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention.
• His skills at compromise helped the delegates reach agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America.
• This earned him the title “Father of the Constitution.”

George Washington (VS.6a)
• George Washington, a Virginian, was elected as the first President of the United States of America.
• He provided the strong leadership needed to help the young country and provided a model of leadership for future presidents.
• He is often called the “Father of Our Country.”

What geographic factors influenced Virginians to move to the western frontier of Virginia and beyond? (VS.6c)
After the American Revolution, Virginia’s agricultural base began to change, and as a result, large numbers of Virginians moved west and to the deep South to find better farmland and new opportunities.
• Tobacco farming was hard on the soil, causing many farmers to look west and south for new land to farm.
• Virginians migrated into western territories looking for large areas of land and new opportunities.
• As Virginians moved, they took their traditions, ideas, and cultures with them.
• Settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains through the Cumberland Gap as they migrated to new lands in the west.

2007, Rebecca Mills, Supervisor of Social Studies, Spotsylvania County Schools
What major Civil War battles were fought in Virginia? (VS.7b)

- Battle of Bull Run (Manassas): first major clash of the Civil War.
- Fredericksburg: Union troops were defeated by the Army of Northern Virginia.
- Richmond: The Confederate capital was captured and burned near the end of the war.
- Monitor (Union ship) and the Merrimack (Confederate ship): Sea battle that took place in Virginia waters near Norfolk and Hampton. The battle was fought to a draw.
- Appomattox Court House: Confederate army surrendered to Union army resulting in the end of Civil War.

Why did Virginia secede from the Union? (VS.7a)

After Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States in 1860, some southern states seceded from the Union. Later, other southern states, including Virginia, seceded to form the Confederate States of America.”

How did West Virginia become a state? (VS.7a)

> Conflict grew between the eastern counties of Virginia that relied on slavery and western counties that favored abolition of slavery.
> The disagreement between the two regions of the state led to the formation of West Virginia.

Events leading to secession and Civil War:

- Abolitionists campaigned to end slavery.
- Nat Turner led a revolt against plantation owners in Virginia.
- Harriet Tubman supported a secret route that escaped slaves took; it became known as the “Underground Railroad.”
- John Brown led a raid on the United States Armory (Arsenal) at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He was trying to start a slave rebellion. He was captured and hanged.

Reconstruction: The period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the southern states back into the Union. (VS.8a)

What were some of the problems Virginians faced during the period of Reconstruction?

- Millions of freed slaves needed housing, clothing, food, and jobs.
- Virginia’s economy was in ruins:
  - money had no value
  - banks were closed
  - railroads and bridges were gone
  - plantations and crops were destroyed

What measures were taken to resolve problems?

- The Freedmen’s Bureau was a government agency that provided food, schools, and medical care for freed slaves and others in Virginia and the rest of the South.
- Sharecropping was a system common in Virginia after the war in which freed men and poor white farmers rented land from a landowner by promising to pay the owner with a share of the crop.

Civil War Leaders (VS.7b)

- Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson played a major role in the Battle of Bull Run.
- General Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, defeated Union troops at Fredericksburg.
- Union General Ulysses S. Grant and his troops took the capital of Richmond. He later accepted the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House.

What were some of the problems Virginians faced during the period of Reconstruction?

“Jim Crow” Laws (VS.8b)

During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia’s government, and men of all races could vote.

In the early 1900s “Jim Crow” laws established segregation or separation of the races and reinforced prejudices held by whites.

Ways “Jim Crow” laws affected African American life:

- Unfair poll taxes and voting tests were established to keep African Americans from voting.
- African Americans found it very difficult to vote or hold public office.
- African Americans were forced to use separate drinking fountains.
- African American and white children attended separate schools.
GROWTH IN VIRGINIA

Virginia began to grow in many areas after the Civil War and Reconstruction. Virginia’s cities grew with people, businesses, and factories.

What changes took place in Virginia to boost the economic growth?

• Railroads were a key to the expansion of business, agriculture, and industry.
• Railroad centers stimulated the growth of factories where clothing, furniture, and other useful items were made.
• The cities of Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News, Petersburg, Alexandria, and Lynchburg grew rapidly.
• Coal deposits became a source of livelihood for residents of southwest Virginia.

Contributions of Citizens (VS.9c)

Maggie L. Walker was the first African American woman and also the first woman to become a bank president in the United States.

Harry F. Byrd, Sr., as governor, was known for “Pay as You Go” policy for road improvements, and he modernized Virginia state government.

Arthur R. Ashe, Jr., was the first African American winner of a major men’s tennis singles championship. He was also an author and eloquent spokesperson for social change.

L. Douglas Wilder, former governor of Virginia, was the first African American to be elected a state governor in the United States.

Agriculture to Industry (VS.9a)

Why did Virginia change from an agricultural to an industrial society?

> Virginia’s systems of farming were old and no longer effective.
> Crop prices were low.

What caused Virginia’s cities to grow?

> People moved from rural to urban areas.
> Technological developments in transportation, roads, railroads, and streetcars helped cities grow.
> Coal mining spurred the growth of Virginia towns and cities as people moved from the countryside to find jobs.

Three Branches of Government (VS.10a)

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

> The General Assembly is the legislative branch.
  • Makes state laws
  • Divided into two parts - the Senate and the House of Delegates
> The governor heads the executive branch.
  • Makes sure that state laws are carried out
> The court system is the judicial branch.
  • Decides cases about people accused of breaking the law and whether or not a law agrees with Virginia’s constitution.

What changes occurred in Virginia as a result of the Civil Rights Movement? (VS.9b)

• The United States Supreme Court ruled in 1954 (Brown v. Board of Education) that “separate but equal” public schools were unconstitutional. All public schools, including those in Virginia, were ordered to integrate.

Massive Resistance:

• Virginia’s government established a policy of Massive Resistance, which fought to “resist” the integration of public schools.
• Some schools were closed to avoid integration.
• The policy of Massive Resistance failed, and Virginia’s public schools were integrated.
• Harry F. Byrd, Sr., led a Massive Resistance movement against the integration of public schools.

Civil Rights Movement:

• After World War II, African Americans demanded equal treatment and the recognition of their rights as American citizens.
• As a result of the Civil Rights Movement, laws were passed that made racial discrimination illegal.

VIRGINIA TODAY (VS.10c)

How have advances in transportation facilitated migration and economic growth?
Virginia’s transportation system (highways, railroads, and air transportation) moves raw materials to factories and finished products to markets.

Virginia exports agricultural and manufactured products, including tobacco, poultry, coal, and large ships.

How have advances in communication and technology helped the economy grow?
Virginia has a large number of communication and other technology industries.

In what ways is Virginia a part of the United States economy? Tourism is a major part of Virginia’s economy. Because many federal workers live and/or work in Virginia, the federal government has a significant impact.

desegregation: abolishment of racial segregation
integration: full equality of all races in the use of public facilities