Colonial Virginia

Colonial Virginia Culture

Legend
- Coastal Plain (Tidewater) Region
- Piedmont Region
- Blue Ridge Mountain Region
- Valley & Ridge Region
- Appalachian Plateau Region

Germans & Scots-Irish

American Indian
- Roanoke

English
- Richmond

Africans
Contents

• Virginia’s Economy
  - tobacco growing
  - slave labor
  - money, barter, credit, debt, savings

• Settlement Groups in Different Regions of Colonial Virginia

• Everyday Life in Colonial Virginia
  - food, clothing, housing, work & rights

• Colonial Virginia Government

• Changing Location of the Capital
Colonial Virginia – Agricultural Economy

Colonial Virginia depended on agriculture, (mostly tobacco growing), as its main source of wealth/money.

**economy:**
the buying & selling of goods & services

**agriculture:**
farming
Colonial Virginia – Slavery & Agriculture

African men, women & children were brought to the Virginia Colony & enslaved to work on tobacco plantations. Colonial Virginia was dependent on slave labor.
Colonial Virginia – Slavery & Agriculture

The economy of Colonial Virginia grew as tobacco farming grew. Tobacco farming grew because of slave labor.

**slave labor**: people forced to work without getting paid
Colonial Virginia – Agricultural Economy

Tobacco was grown as a **cash crop**.

**cash crop**: plants grown to sell in order to make money, not for use by the people who grow it.
Tobacco was sold in England as a cash crop.
Colonial Virginia – Agricultural Economy

Tobacco farming was very important in colonial Virginia. At first, it grew the local economy & trade because it was farmed with slave labor & sold as a cash crop.

But after many years of farming the same crops on the same land, the soil lost its nutrients.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Most people in Colonial Virginia did not have money to buy goods & services. People bartered/traded goods & services instead of using money.

Native Americans never used money. They bartered.

One Indian is giving a fish to the other Indian & getting grain as a trade or barter.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Most people in Colonial Virginia did not have money to buy goods & services so they bartered.

**barter**: to trade or exchange goods & services without using money

This man is “bartering” tobacco for a tool, shoes & other goods.

Most people in Colonial Virginia bartered with tobacco.
People/consumers also bought goods & services on credit. 

**credit**: to buy goods or services now & then pay for them later

This man is buying goods on “credit.”
He will pay for the goods later.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

When people/consumers buy goods or services but pay for them later; that’s called having “debt.”

default: a good or service owed to someone

This man is paying a debt to the store keeper. He owed the store payment for goods he bought months ago.

This man is paying his “debt.”

He’s paying for goods he bought months ago.
There weren’t any banks in Colonial Virginia. People used tobacco like it was money. This man is giving the storekeeper tobacco for the goods he needs instead of money.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

In Colonial Virginia, lots of farmers bought goods on credit & then paid their debts when they harvested their crops. They used tobacco as money.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Which picture shows bartering?

[Illustration of bartering between two individuals.]
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Nice work! This circled picture is the one that shows bartering.

**barter**: trading goods & services instead of using money
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Which picture shows payment of a debt?

Here's what I owe you.

I'll pay you back when I harvest my crops.

Will you trade those goods for this barrel of tobacco?
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Nice job! The circled picture shows payment of a debt.

default: a good or service owed to someone
Colonial Virginia – Economy
Which picture shows buying goods on credit?

1. Will you trade those goods for this barrel of tobacco?
2. I'll pay you back when I harvest my crops.
3. Here's what I owe you.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Excellent! The circled picture shows buying goods on credit. **credit**: to buy or services now & pay for them later
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Which picture shows paying for goods with actual money?

I’ll pay you back when I harvest my crops.

Will you trade those goods for this barrel of tobacco?
Good work!
The circled picture shows paying for goods with actual money.
Colonial Virginia – Economy

Most people in Colonial Virginia didn’t have any savings.

**savings:**
money put away & saved to spend later
People depended on natural, human & capital resources to get the goods & services they needed.

Food choices in Colonial Virginia were limited. People ate local produce & meat (natural resources).
Colonial Virginia – Clothing

People depended on natural, human & capital resources to get the goods & services they needed.

People (human resources) made their own clothes. They made their clothes out of cotton, wool or leather (natural resources).
Colonial Virginia – Housing

Most white people Colonial Virginia lived in 1 room houses with dirt floors but some lived in large houses. Many enslaved African Americans were forced to live altogether in 1 room houses with dirt floors.

Houses were made from natural resources (wood, stone, etc.) using human (people) & capital (tools) resources to build them.
Colonial Virginia – Work

Most white people in Colonial Virginia were farmers who lived by farming the land they owned.

They depended on the natural resources of their land.

Some white people owned plantations.

They depended on the natural resources of their land, the human resources of slave labor & the capital resources/tools used on their plantations.
Colonial Virginia – Work

African Americans were enslaved (forced to work without pay) & depended on tools/capital resources to do their work on plantations & their owners/human resources.
Colonial Virginia – Rights

Only white land/property owning men were allowed to vote. They had representation & some control in their government.

African Americans didn’t have any rights. They didn’t have any representation or control in their government.
Colonial Virginia - Culture

People from Europe started migrating to North America. This pushed the American Indian populations inland & changed the culture of Virginia.
English & other Europeans settled primarily in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) & Piedmont Regions. The English culture was reflected in Richmond. Richmond is an English name.
Colonial Virginia - Culture

Germans & Scots-Irish settled mostly in the Shenandoah Valley, which was along the migration route. The German & Scots-Irish culture was reflected in Shenandoah Valley.
Africans settled primarily/mostly in the Coastal Plain & Piedmont regions as forced labor on tobacco plantations. The African American culture was reflected in the Coastal Plain & Piedmont regions.
Before the settlers arrived, American Indians lived throughout Virginia but after the settlers came, American Indians were forced to lived inland. American Indian culture was reflected in Roanoke. Roanoke is an American Indian name.
Virginia’s - Culture

Today, Virginia’s culture is still influenced by its past.

The map below shows places named after Indian groups. (Chesapeake, Chincoteague, Assateague, Powhatan, Chickahominy, Potomac & Rappahannock Rivers).
Colonial Virginia - Changing Culture

Whenever people settle in a new area, they change that culture to reflect their own beliefs, customs & architecture. Before the European settlers came to North America, it was an American Indian culture.

before European settlers

after European settlers
Colonial Virginia – Changing Culture

Architecture can tell about/reflect a culture.
These architectural structures all reflect the culture of the people who built them.

- barns
- homes
- places of worship (churches)
Architecture tells about/reflects a culture.

Which home reflects a Native American culture?
Which home reflects a European culture?
Architecture tells about/reflects a culture.

Excellent!
Colonial Virginia - Government

As Colonial Virginia grew, so did its government. Two citizen representatives (2 people) from each division of Colonial Virginia were elected by the people to represent their rights in the government. These representatives were called burgesses.
Colonial Virginia - Government

Burgesses were part of the Virginia General Assembly.
The Virginia General Assembly was:

- created in 1619
- the 1st elected legislative body in America
- made of 3 parts (Burgesses, Governor’s Council & Governor)
In 1619, the Governor called for a meeting of the General Assembly.

Burgesses, Governor’s Council, it’s 1619 and I say we shall all have a meeting!
The General Assembly was the legislative body that gave the settlers the opportunity (chance) to control their own government. They could vote for the burgesses which gave them some government control.

Colonial Virginia - Government

Diagram:
- General Assembly
- Burgesses
- Governor's Council
- Governor
Colonial Virginia - Government

Only white men who owned property/land could take part in the government.

White Land Owning Men Only

burgesses

Governor's Council

Governor
By 1640, the burgesses became its own separate legislative body, called the House of Burgesses.
The House of Burgesses later became the General Assembly of Virginia which still exists today.
Colonial Virginia - Changing Capital

In 1698, the capital moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg because:

- the **drinking water** was **contaminated** by salt water & making people sick
- **diseases** – the living conditions were unhealthy
- a **fire destroyed** wooden & brick **buildings of Jamestown**
Colonial Virginia - Changing Capital

In 1698, the capital was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg.
Colonial Virginia – Changing Capital

When the soil became depleted of nutrients & no longer good for farming, people began to move west looking for new land to farm. Also, more & more people were migrating to North America from Europe looking for land to make a home.

People in Colonial Virginia began to move west so they thought moving the capital westward was a good idea.
Colonial Virginia – Changing Capital

The colonists & the British began disagreeing about taxes & who was in charge. The colonists started to think the British might attack them. The colonists thought moving the capital inland would protect the colony better.
Colonial Virginia - Changing Capital
In 1780, the capital moved again, from Williamsburg to Richmond because:

- people (the population) were moving west looking for better farm land or new home
- more central location
- it was further from the sea which made it harder for the British to attack them
Colonial Virginia - Changing Capital

Virginia’s capital changed twice. First, it moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg. Then it moved from Williamsburg to Richmond. The capital of Virginia is still Richmond today.
Virginia’s Capital Today

The capital of Virginia is still Richmond.
Colonial Virginia is interesting.
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