Christopher Columbus called the people he found in the lands he explored “Indians,” because he thought he was in the Indies.

Artifacts, such as arrowheads, pottery, and other tools, tell a lot about the people who lived in Virginia. Archaeologists study material evidence left by people of the past.

### WEROWOCOMOCO
- Was a large Indian town located on the York River
- Used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before English settlers came
- Was headquarters of leader Powhatan in 1607

### JAMESTOWN
- Became the first permanent English settlement in North America
- Site of the original fort was discovered by archaeologists
- Artifacts give clues about interactions of Indians, English, and Africans in early Virginia

### Major Language Groups of Virginia in 1600

- **Algonquian languages** were spoken primarily in the Tidewater region. The Powhatan were part of this group.
- **Siouan languages** were spoken primarily in the Piedmont region. The Monacan were part of this group.
- **Iroquoian languages** were spoken in Southwestern Virginia and in Southern Virginia near what is today North Carolina. The Cherokee were a part of this group.
The kinds of food American Indians ate, the clothing they wore, and the shelters they had depended upon the seasons. Shelters were made from natural resources found around them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They hunted birds and other animals. Animal skins (deerskin) were used to make clothing. They lived on stored foods from the previous fall.</td>
<td>They hunted, fished, and picked berries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMER</th>
<th>FALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They grew crops, such as beans, corn, and squash.</td>
<td>They harvested crops and hunted for foods to preserve and keep for the winter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The climate in Virginia is relatively mild, with four distinct seasons, resulting in a variety of vegetation. Forests with a variety of trees cover most of the land. Virginia’s American Indians are referred to as Eastern Woodland Indians.

American Indians have always been closely connected to the land. They did not believe in land ownership.

**American Indians, whose ancestors have lived in Virginia for thousands of years before 1607, continue to live in all parts of the state today.**

Today, Virginia Indians...
- Live and work as modern Americans.
- May practice ancient traditions and crafts while incorporating new customs over time.
- Live in all parts of Virginia. Current state-recognized tribes are located in regions throughout Virginia.
- Maintain tribal museums and lands on which they hold public festivals called powwows.
- Maintain their vibrant cultural heritage through drumming, singing, dance, art, jewelry, clothing, crafts, pottery, and storytelling.
- Contribute to American society as active citizens who vote, hold office, and work in communities.

A powwow is a way of teaching American Indians and visitors about American Indian culture, past and present.