**INTRODUCTION TO VIRGINIA STUDIES**
Refrigerator Card for SOL Home Review

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iroquoian</td>
<td>Spoken in southwestern Virginia and in southern Virginia near what is today North Carolina. The Cherokee were part of this group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siouan</td>
<td>Spoken primarily in the Piedmont region. The Monacan were part of this group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquian</td>
<td>Spoken primarily in the Tidewater region. The Powhatan were part of this group.</td>
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</table>

**How did the native peoples and the English interact?** (VS.3g)
Captain John Smith initiated trading relationships with the native peoples.

**Why did the relationship between the Jamestown settlers and the native peoples change?**
The native peoples traded mainly with the English in exchange for tools, pots, and copper for jewelry.

The native peoples contributed to the survival of the Jamestown settlers by:
1. Powhatan, chief of many tribes, provided leadership to his people and taught the settlers survival skills
2. Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatan, served as a contact between the native peoples and the English.
3. The native peoples showed the settlers how to plant corn and tobacco.

Over time, the native peoples realized the English settlement would continue to grow.
The native peoples came to see the settlers as invaders who would take over their land.

**Fall Line** (VS.2b): The natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont Regions, where waterfall prevents further travel on the river.

**Lake Drummond** (VS.2c) Located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region; Shallow natural lake surrounded by the Dismal Swamp

**Dismal Swamp** (VS.2c) Located in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region; Variety of wildlife. George Washington explored and surveyed the Dismal Swamp.

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

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

2. **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, horse industry

3. **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:** mining, farming

4. **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:** coal
   - **Industries:** coal mining

5. **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:** poultry, apples, dairy, beef
   - **Industries:** farming

**What is a peninsula?** (VS.2c) 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.
- The Chesapeake Bay separates the Eastern Shore from the mainland of Virginia.
- The four major rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay are separated by peninsulas.

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

- **Potomac River**: Flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Alexandria is located along Potomac River.
- **Rappahannock River**: Flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Fredericksburg is located on Rappahannock River.
- **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.

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.

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

**Relative Location** (VS.2a)
Location 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,” and “bordering.”

**Which states border Virginia?**

**Atlantic Ocean** (VS.2c)
Provided transportation links between Virginia and other places (e.g., Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean)

**Chesapeake Bay** (VS.2c)
Provided a safe harbor and was a source of food and transportation.

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Virginia Standards of Learning (2008), Rebecca Mills, Supervisor of Social Studies, Spotsylvania County Schools
Why are native peoples called Indians? (VS.2d)

Christopher Columbus called the people he found in the lands he explored “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. There is evidence that American Indians lived in all areas of the state.

Virginia’s American Indians worked with the environment and the climate to meet their basic needs. Virginia Indian cultures have changed over time. (VS.2c)

Environmental Connections:
• Forests, which had a variety of trees, cover most of the land. Virginia’s Indians are referred to as Eastern Woodland Indians.
• Animal skins (deerskin) were used for clothing.
• Shelter was made from materials around them.
• The kinds of food they ate, the clothing they wore, and the shelters they had depended upon the seasons.

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

Winter
hunted birds and animals and lived on stored foods from the previous fall

Spring
hunted, fished, and picked berries

Summer
 grew crops (beans, corn, squash)

Fall
harvested crops and hunted for foods to preserve and keep for the winter

Today, most native peoples live like other Americans. Virginia Indian cultures have changed over time.

Why is archaeology important? (VS.2f)
Archaeology is another way that helps people understand the past. Archaeologists study all kinds of material evidence left from people of the past. Findings change the understanding of history. Recent archaeological digs have recovered new material evidence about Werowocomoco and historic Jamestown.

What was Werowocomoco?
Werowocomoco was a large Indian town used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before the English settlers came. It was the headquarters of the leader, Powhatan, in 1607.

What was Jamestown?
Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America. Archaeologists have discovered the site of the original fort. The recovered artifacts give archaeologists clues about the interactions of English, Africans, and Indians in Virginia.

Why did the settlers choose the site at Jamestown? (VS.3b)
• Instructions told the settlers to go inland and find a suitable place for their colony.
• The location could easily be defended from Spanish attack by sea.
• The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock.
• They believed they had a good supply of fresh water.

Importance of the Virginia charters (VS.3c)
The King of England had the power to grant charters allowing settlement in North America. He granted charters to the Virginia Company of London to:
• establish a settlement in North America, and
• extend English rights to the settlers.

American Indians have lived in Virginia for thousands of years. Today, eight American Indian tribes are recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia: (VS.2g)
• Coastal Plain (Tidewater) Region: Chickahominy Tribe; Eastern Chickahominy Tribe; Mattaponi Tribe; Nansemond Tribe; Pamunkey Tribe; Rappahannock Tribe; Upper Mattaponi Tribe
• Piedmont Region: Monacan Tribe

American Indians, who trace their family history back to before 1607, continue to live in all parts of Virginia today.
As Jamestown grew, the system of government evolved. (VS.3d)
In 1619, the governor of Virginia called a meeting of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly included:
- the governor
- the governor’s council
- two representatives (called “burgesses”) from each of the divisions of Virginia.
  (At that time, only certain free adult men had a right to take part.)

By the 1640s, the burgesses became a separate legislative body called the House of Burgesses.
They met separately from the Governor’s Council as one of the two legislative bodies of the General Assembly.

Why was the House of Burgesses important?
The Virginia House of Burgesses was the first elected legislative body in English America giving settlers the opportunity to control their own government.

The current Virginia General Assembly dates from the establishment of the House of Burgesses at Jamestown in 1619.

What was the impact of the arrival of Africans and women to the Jamestown settlement? (VS.3e)
Portuguese sailors captured African men and women from what is present-day Angola. The status of these early African men and women as either servants or slaves in Virginia is unknown.

Africans arrived in Jamestown against their will in 1619. **Impact:** The arrival of Africans made it possible to expand tobacco economy. **Impact:** The arrival of additional women in 1620 made it possible for more settlers to establish families and a permanent settlement at Jamestown.

Migration and living in new areas caused people to adapt old customs to their new environment. Although a colony of England, Virginia developed a unique culture. The culture of colonial Virginia reflected beliefs, customs, and architecture of Europeans, Africans, and American Indians living in those areas. (VS.4b)
Whenever people settle an area, they change the culture and landscape to reflect their beliefs, customs, and architecture of their culture.

Examples of architecture that reflect different cultures include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barns</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Homes</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Where did the various cultural groups settle?
- The English and other Europeans settled primarily in Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions.
- Germans and Scots-Irish settled primarily in the Shenandoah Valley, which was along the migration route.
- Africans were settled primarily in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions, where tobacco agriculture required a great deal of labor.
- Prior to the arrival of the settlers, American Indians lived throughout Virginia. After the settlers arrived, most were forced inland.

Place names reflecting culture: Richmond (English) and Roanoke (American Indian)
# Relocation of Virginia’s Capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg (VS.4c)

A variety of factors explain the reasons for moving Virginia’s capital.

| What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg? | Jamestown’s drinking water was contaminated by seepage of salt water.  
Unhealthy living conditions caused diseases.  
Fire destroyed wooden and brick buildings at Jamestown. |
|---|---|
| What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond? | Population was moving westward.  
Richmond was a more central location.  
Moving to Richmond increased the distance from attack by the British. |

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## Money was not often used in the early Virginia colony. What forms of exchange were used in the Virginia colony? (VS.4d)

- Few people had paper money and coins to use to buy goods and services.
- 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 good and services on credit and pay their debts when their crops were harvested and sold.

### Barter was commonly used instead of money.

**Colonial Virginia had no banks.**

## How did resources influence the food, housing, and clothing in colonial Virginia? (VS.4e)

Resources were used in colonial Virginia to produce the goods and services that the people needed. People depended on natural, human, and capital resources to produce the goods and services they needed.

### Food:

- Food choices were limited
- Meals were made of local produce and meats

### Housing:

- Most people lived in one-room homes with dirt floors
- Some people (farmers) lived in large houses

### Clothing:

- Households made their own clothes
- Most clothing was made of cotton, wool and leather

## The Declaration of Independence gave reasons for independence and ideas for self-government. (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.**

## How did the colonists ideas about government differ from those of the British Parliament? (VS.5a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Colonists</th>
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</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>
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## Who was Jack Jouett? (VS.5c)

He rode on horseback through the backwoods of Virginia to Charlottesville to warn Thomas Jefferson, then governor of Virginia, that the British were coming to arrest him and members of the General Assembly.

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Virginia Standards of Learning (2008), Rebecca Mills, Supervisor of Social Studies, Spotsylvania County Schools
**REVOLUTIONARY WAR** (VS.5b)  
*What contributions did Virginians make during the Revolutionary War era?*

**Patriot**
- Virginians who served in the Continental Army and fought for independence leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.

**Neutral**
- Virginians who did not take sides with either Great Britain or the Continental Army.

**Loyalist**
- Virginians who remained loyal to Great Britain.

Some enslaved African Americans fought for a better chance of freedom and some free African Americans fought for independence in the American Revolution. Many American Indians fought alongside both the Virginia patriots and the British. Women took on more responsibility to support the war effort.

**James Lafayette**, an enslaved African American from Virginia, served in the Continental Army and successfully requested his freedom after 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 Great Britain 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.”

**BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE** (VS.5c)  
*What was the importance of the Battle of Great Bridge?*

It was the first land battle of the American Revolution fought in Virginia. The American victory forced the British colonial governor to flee the City of Norfolk.

**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.
How were whites, enslaved African Americans, free African Americans, and American Indians affected by the Civil War? (VS.7c)
- Most white Virginians supported the Confederacy.
- The Confederacy relied on enslaved African Americans to raise crops and provide labor for the army.
- Some free African Americans felt their limited rights could best be protected by supporting the Confederacy.
- Most American Indians did not take sides during the Civil War.

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 African Americans needed housing, education, clothing, food, and jobs.

Virginia’s economy was in ruins:
- Money had no value.
- Banks were closed.
- Railroads, bridge, 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 African Americans and others in Virginia.
- 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.

"Jim Crow" Laws (VS.8b)
During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia’s government, and men of all races could vote.

After Reconstruction, these gains were lost when “Jim Crow” laws established segregation or separation of the races and reinforced prejudices held by whites.

Ways “Jim Crow” laws affected the lives of African Americans and American Indians:
- 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 poor quality services such as drinking fountains, restrooms and restaurants.
- African American and white children attended separate schools.
- “Jim Crow” laws had an effect on American Indians.

Terms to Know
- Segregation: the separation of people, usually based on race or religion (VS.8b)
- Discrimination: an unfair difference in the treatment of people (VS.8b)
- Desegregation: Abolishment of racial segregation (VS.9c)
- Integration: Full equality of all races in the use of public facilities (VS.9c)
Virginia began to grow in many areas after the Civil War and Reconstruction. Virginia’s cities grew with people, businesses, and factories. (VS.8c)

**What changes took place in Virginia to boost the economic growth?**
- Railroads were a key to the expansion of business, agriculture, and industry. They facilitated the growth of small towns to cities.
- Other parts of Virginia grew as other industries developed. Coal deposits were discovered in Tazewell County.
- The need for more and better roads increased.
- Tobacco farming and tobacco products became important Virginia industries.

During the early 20th century, agriculture began to change. (VS.9a)

**Why did Virginia change from an agricultural to an industrial society?**
- Virginia’s old 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 for economic opportunities.
- 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.

In the late 20th Century and the early 21st century, Northern Virginia and the Coast Plan (Tidewater) region have grown due to computer technology.

Woodrow Wilson and George C. Marshall (VS.9b)
- Woodrow Wilson was a 20th century president who wrote a plan for world peace.
- George C. Marshall was a military leader who created an economic plan to ensure world peace.

**What changes occurred in Virginia as a result of the Civil Rights Movement?** (VS.9c)
- 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 desegregate.

**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 desegregation of public schools.

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.

**Contributions of Citizens** (VS.9d)
- Any individuals made social, political, and economic contributions to Virginia live in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Maggie L. Walker** was the first African American woman to establish and 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.

**Oliver W. Hill, Sr.** was a lawyer and civil rights leader who worked for equal rights of African Americans. He played a key role in the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

**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.

**A. Linwood Holton, Jr.** as governor of Virginia, promoted racial equality, and appointed more African Americans and women to positions in state government than previous governors.

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

**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.

**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 on Virginia’s economy.