INTRODUCTION TO VIRGINIA STUDIES
Refrigerator Card for SOL Home Review

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

1) Iroquoian Languages: Spoken in southwestern Virginia and in southern Virginia near what is today North Carolina. The Cherokee were part of this group.
2) Siouan Languages: Spoken primarily in the Piedmont region. The Monacan were part of this group.
3) Algonquian Language: Spoken primarily in the Tidewater region. The Powhatan were part of this group.

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)

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, peanuts
- Industries - shipbuilding, tourism, military bases

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

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, farming

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, dairy, beef
- 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 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?

What bodies of water 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.

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.2c)

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.

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

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; Nansendom 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.
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.

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.

What effect did agriculture have on the Virginia colony? The economy of the Virginia colony depended on agriculture as a primary source of wealth. Tobacco became the most profitable agricultural product and was sold in England as a cash crop.

What changes took place that resulted in survival of the settlers?
- arrival of supply ships
- forced work program and strong leadership of Captain John Smith
- emphasis on agriculture ensured survival of the colony.

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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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Jamestown’s drinking water was contaminated by seepage of salt water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unhealthy living conditions caused diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fire destroyed wooden and brick buildings at Jamestown.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What were some reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Population was moving westward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Richmond was a more central location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Moving to Richmond increased the distance from attack by the British.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Food choices were limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meals were made of local produce and meats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Most people lived in one-room homes with dirt floors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some people (farmers) lived in large houses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clothing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Households made their own clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Most clothing was made of cotton, wool and leather</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Terms to Know (VS.4d)

- money: a medium of exchange (currency which includes coins and paper bills)
- 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

How was everyday life different for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in colonial Virginia? (VS.4e)

- Most white Virginians made their living from the land as small farmers. A few owned large farms (plantations.)
- Most enslaved African Americans worked tobacco, crops and livestock. Enslaved African Americans had no rights.
- Many free African Americans owned their own business and property, but were denied most rights.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Parliament believed it had legal authority in the colonies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parliament believed it had the right to tax the colonies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

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?*

<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 for independence leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.</td>
<td>Virginians who did not take sides with either Great Britain or the Continental Army.</td>
<td>Virginians who remained loyal to Great Britain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**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.”*

**James Madison** (VS.6a)

- James Madison, a Virginian, 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.”*

**Virginia Declaration of Rights** (VS.6a)

The Virginia Declaration of Rights states that all Virginians have many rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press.

- George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

**Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom** (VS.6a)

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom states that all people should be free to worship as they please.


**What was the importance of the American victory at Yorktown?** (VS.5c)

- The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was fought at Yorktown.
- The American victory at Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the British army, which led to an end to the war.
Differences between the Northern and Southern States that led to the Civil War (VS.7a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy was more industrialized.</td>
<td>Economy was agricultural and relied more on slave labor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern states wanted the new states created out of the western territory to be “free states.”</td>
<td>Southern states wanted the new states created out of the western territory to be “slave states.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 enslaved African Americans 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.

Why did Virginia secede from the Union? (VS.7a)
After Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860, some southern states seceded from the Union and formed the “Confederate States of America.” Later, Virginia seceded and joined them.

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 did not favor slavery.
> Many disagreements between the two regions of the state led to the formation of West Virginia.

What major Civil War battles were fought in Virginia? (VS.7b)
The first Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas) was the first major clash of the Civil War. Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson played a major role in the battle.
Fredericksburg: General Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, defeated Union troops at Fredericksburg, Virginia.
Richmond: The Confederate capital fell to General Ulysses S. Grant and was burned (by Southerners) near the end of the war.
Monitor (Union ship) and the Merrimack (Confederate ship):
Lincoln used the Union Navy to blockade southern ports. An important sea battle between the Monitor (Union) and the Merrimack (Confederate), two iron-clad ships, took place in Virginia waters near Norfolk and Hampton. The battle was fought to a draw.
Appomattox Court House: The Civil War ended at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, where Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate army surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant in April 1865.

How were whites, enslaved 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)
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