

# Virginia Land Journey

Trace Virginia's regions from the coast to the highlands.

**VS.1.b** "locating and describing the relative location and physical characteristics of Virginia's five geographic regions on a map; and"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline words and phrases that tell where a region is located. Then number the first mention of each of the five region names from 1, farthest east, to 5, farthest west.

### A Trip Across Virginia

- ① Virginia stretches from the Atlantic coast westward to mountains and highlands. Its five geographic regions line up mostly from east to west. The Coastal Plain, also called Tidewater, is farthest east beside Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It has low, flat land, wide rivers, bays, and marshes. People can follow the land west from this coastal region to find the next regions.
- ② The Piedmont lies directly west of the Coastal Plain. Its rolling hills sit between the flat coast and the mountains. Many rivers cross the Piedmont on their way toward Chesapeake Bay. West of the Piedmont rises the Blue Ridge Mountains, a narrow band of steep mountains. This region includes mountain ridges, forested slopes, and some of Virginia's highest peaks.
- ③ Beyond the Blue Ridge, the Valley and Ridge region has long valleys between parallel ridges. It is west of the Blue Ridge. Farther west, the Appalachian Plateau is Virginia's smallest region. It lies in the southwest corner of the state. The plateau has raised, fairly flat land cut by streams, plus wooded hills and coal deposits. Moving east to west shows how Virginia's land changes from coastal lowlands to highlands.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

- 1

Which region would you reach first if you traveled west from the Atlantic coast?
- 2

How is the land in the Piedmont different from the land in the Coastal Plain?
- 3

What region is west of the Blue Ridge Mountains? Describe one land feature found there.
- 4

Where is the Appalachian Plateau located in Virginia, and what does the passage say about its size?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use your teacher’s Virginia region map. Locate and label all five regions on a copy or overlay; check with your teacher. Then fill the east-to-west guide: name each region, describe its map position and give one physical characteristic from the passage.

| REGION | PLACE ON THE TRIP | PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
|        |                   |                         |
|        |                   |                         |
|        |                   |                         |
|        |                   |                         |
|        |                   |                         |

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline words and phrases that tell where a region is located. Then number the first mention of each of the five region names from 1, farthest east, to 5, farthest west. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                            | ANSWER                                                                                                               |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which region would you reach first if you traveled west from the Atlantic coast?                    | <b>The Coastal Plain, or Tidewater.</b>                                                                              |
| 2 | How is the land in the Piedmont different from the land in the Coastal Plain?                       | <b>The Piedmont has rolling hills, while the Coastal Plain has low, flat land.</b>                                   |
| 3 | What region is west of the Blue Ridge Mountains? Describe one land feature found there.             | <b>The Valley and Ridge region is west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It has long valleys between parallel ridges.</b> |
| 4 | Where is the Appalachian Plateau located in Virginia, and what does the passage say about its size? | <b>It is in the southwest corner of Virginia, and it is Virginia's smallest region.</b>                              |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

| REGION               | PLACE ON THE TRIP                                          | PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC                 |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Coastal Plain        | Eastern start beside Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean | Low, flat land with bays and marshes    |
| Piedmont             | West of the Coastal Plain                                  | Rolling hills                           |
| Blue Ridge Mountains | West of the Piedmont                                       | Steep, forested mountain slopes         |
| Valley and Ridge     | West of the Blue Ridge                                     | Long valleys between parallel ridges    |
| Appalachian Plateau  | Farthest west, in southwest Virginia                       | Raised, fairly flat land cut by streams |

Required: supply a readable map of Virginia's five geographic regions, with boundaries, labels and a direction marker, plus a copy or overlay for marking. Check each learner's five located regions against it, including Appalachian Plateau in southwest Virginia. Accept equivalent map-based positions and passage-based features in all five rows. The completed table alone does not replace actual map use.