

# Virginia Grows Strong

Read for evidence of population, trade, and wealth in colonial Virginia.

**USI.5.b** "explaining Virginia's importance as one of the most populous and wealthiest colonies;"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details that show Virginia had a large population. Circle three details that show how Virginia gained wealth, then use the marks to explain why the colony was important.

### A Large and Wealthy Colony

- ① During the colonial period, Virginia grew into one of Britain's most populous mainland colonies. By 1775, about 447,000 people lived there, including free people and enslaved people. Families settled along rivers and in towns such as Williamsburg. More people meant more workers, customers, farms, and communities. Virginia's large population gave the colony an important place among the thirteen colonies.
- ② Virginia's soil and long growing season helped planters raise tobacco, a crop many people in Britain wanted to buy. Tobacco moved by boat on the Chesapeake Bay and rivers to Atlantic ships. Planters sold it overseas for money and goods. This trade brought wealth to some Virginia landowners and merchants, while enslaved Africans did much of the forced labor on tobacco plantations.
- ③ Large plantations, busy ports, and trade linked Virginia to markets across the Atlantic. Wealth was not shared fairly. Many planters gained land and profits, but enslaved people were treated as property and received no pay for their work. Still, tobacco sales, fertile land, and a large workforce helped make Virginia one of the wealthiest colonies. Population and trade together increased its importance.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** About how many people lived in Virginia by 1775?

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**2** How did Virginia's soil and growing season help the colony become wealthy?

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**3** How did rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and Atlantic ships help Virginia's tobacco trade?

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**4** Why does the passage say that Virginia's wealth was not shared fairly?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining why Virginia was important among the thirteen colonies. Include one population fact, one detail about wealth, and an explanation of how each detail increased Virginia's importance.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline two details that show Virginia had a large population. Circle three details that show how Virginia gained wealth, then use the marks to explain why the colony was important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                              | ANSWER                                                                                                                            |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | About how many people lived in Virginia by 1775?                                      | <b>About 447,000 people lived in Virginia by 1775.</b>                                                                            |
| 2 | How did Virginia's soil and growing season help the colony become wealthy?            | <b>They helped planters grow tobacco, a crop that people in Britain wanted to buy.</b>                                            |
| 3 | How did rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and Atlantic ships help Virginia's tobacco trade? | <b>They helped move tobacco by boat to Atlantic ships so it could be sold overseas.</b>                                           |
| 4 | Why does the passage say that Virginia's wealth was not shared fairly?                | <b>Planters gained land and profits, but enslaved people were treated as property and received no pay for their forced labor.</b> |

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

Virginia was important because it was one of the most populous and wealthiest colonies. About 447,000 people lived there in 1775, giving the colony many workers, customers, farms, and communities. Tobacco was sold overseas, bringing profits to planters and merchants and connecting Virginia to Atlantic trade.

Accept equivalent explanations that use passage evidence about Virginia's large population and tobacco-based trade. For Part 3, look for exactly three sentences with a population fact, a wealth detail, and a clear explanation of importance.