

Virginia Land and Water

Read closely to connect Virginia's location, land, and waterways to people's lives.

VS.1 "The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the relationship between physical geography and the lives of Virginia's peoples..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic region, write 1 through 5 above the regions from west to east, and circle every named body of water.

A Place Shaped by Land and Water

- ① Virginia is in the eastern United States, on the Atlantic side of North America. It borders Maryland to the northeast, North Carolina to the south, Tennessee and Kentucky to the west, and West Virginia to the northwest. Virginia's coast faces the Atlantic Ocean, and the Chesapeake Bay reaches into its eastern side. These locations helped connect Virginia to other places by land and water.
- ② From west to east, Virginia has five geographic regions. The Appalachian Plateau has high, flat land cut by streams. The Valley and Ridge region has long valleys between ridges. The Blue Ridge Mountains are steep and high. East of them, the Piedmont has rolling hills. The Coastal Plain, also called Tidewater, is low and flatter near the bay and ocean.
- ③ Waterways shaped Virginia's history and life. English settlers built Jamestown beside the James River in 1607, where boats could travel and bring supplies. Today, the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers carry water to the Chesapeake Bay. The bay and Atlantic Ocean support ports, fishing, seafood, and recreation. People still boat, work on the water, and share foods such as oysters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe Virginia's location in the United States and North America. Then name the states that border Virginia.

2 List Virginia's five geographic regions in order from west to east.

3 Which region has rolling hills? Which region is low and flatter near the bay and ocean?

4 How did the James River help the settlers at Jamestown? Name two ways the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean supports people today.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence travel note about a trip across Virginia from west to east. Name at least three regions, describe one land feature, and explain one way a Virginia body of water supports people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic region, write 1 through 5 above the regions from west to east, and circle every named body of water. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe Virginia's location in the United States and North America. Then name the states that border Virginia.	Virginia is in the eastern United States, on the Atlantic side of North America. It borders Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia.
2	List Virginia's five geographic regions in order from west to east.	Appalachian Plateau, Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, Coastal Plain.
3	Which region has rolling hills? Which region is low and flatter near the bay and ocean?	The Piedmont has rolling hills. The Coastal Plain is low and flatter near the bay and ocean.
4	How did the James River help the settlers at Jamestown? Name two ways the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean supports people today.	Boats could travel on the James River and bring supplies. The Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean support ports, fishing, seafood, and recreation. Any two current uses are acceptable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would start in the Appalachian Plateau, where high, flat land is cut by streams. Next I would travel east through the Valley and Ridge region and the Blue Ridge Mountains. I would finish in the Coastal Plain near the Chesapeake Bay. The bay supports ports and fishing, so people can travel, work, and eat seafood there.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Virginia's relative location and the five regions in correct west-to-east order. For the travel note, check for at least three regions, one accurate land feature, one named Virginia water body, and a reasonable explanation of its impact on people.