

Voices Across Virginia

Trace Indigenous language groups to Virginia homelands.

VS.2.b “describing Virginia’s three most prominent Indigenous language groups (i.e., the Algonquian, the Siouan, and the Iroquoian);”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each language group name. Underline the words that tell where speakers of each group lived, so you can describe the groups clearly.

Three Language Groups

- ① Long before English settlers arrived, many Indigenous peoples lived across the land now called Virginia. Their communities spoke languages in three prominent language groups: Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian. A language group includes languages that share important features. Knowing the groups helps historians describe how Virginia's Indigenous peoples were connected and how they differed over time.
- ② Algonquian-speaking peoples lived mainly in Virginia's Coastal Plain, also called the Tidewater, along the coast and nearby land. This area has rivers that flow to the Chesapeake Bay. The Powhatan were among these peoples. They used waterways for travel, fishing, and trade, while their language connected them with other nearby Algonquian-speaking communities in the region.
- ③ West of the Fall Line, in the Piedmont region, Siouan-speaking peoples such as the Monacan lived in many communities. Farther south, Iroquoian-speaking peoples, including the Nottoway and Meherrin, lived south of the James River. These three language groups show that Virginia's Indigenous peoples had different languages and homelands across this present-day state and were not all alike.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What are the three prominent Indigenous language groups named in the passage?

2 Where did Algonquian-speaking peoples live mainly? Name the Virginia region and its other name.

3 Name the Siouan-speaking people in the passage. Where did Siouan-speaking peoples live?

4 Which two Iroquoian-speaking peoples does the passage name, and where did they live?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence exhibit card about Virginia's Indigenous language groups. Name all three groups, compare the home areas of two groups, and connect one named people to that person's language group.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each language group name. Underline the words that tell where speakers of each group lived, so you can describe the groups clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are the three prominent Indigenous language groups named in the passage?	Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian.
2	Where did Algonquian-speaking peoples live mainly? Name the Virginia region and its other name.	They lived mainly in the Coastal Plain, also called the Tidewater.
3	Name the Siouan-speaking people in the passage. Where did Siouan-speaking peoples live?	The Monacan were Siouan-speaking. Siouan-speaking peoples lived west of the Fall Line in the Piedmont region.
4	Which two Iroquoian-speaking peoples does the passage name, and where did they live?	The Nottoway and Meherrin were Iroquoian-speaking peoples. They lived south of the James River.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Virginia's three prominent Indigenous language groups were Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian. Algonquian-speaking peoples lived in the Coastal Plain, while Siouan-speaking peoples lived west of the Fall Line in the Piedmont. The Monacan spoke a Siouan language.

Accept Coastal Plain or Tidewater for the Algonquian location. Accept accurate wording that connects the Monacan to Siouan, and the Nottoway and Meherrin to Iroquoian, with the passage's stated locations.