

Many Nations, Many Ways

Compare the languages, places, and leadership of Virginia's Indigenous nations.

VS.2.c "describing the diversity among the Indigenous nations;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show ways Virginia's Indigenous nations differed, then circle the name of each nation you read.

Virginia's Many Indigenous Nations

- ① Long before English settlers arrived, many Indigenous nations lived in the land now called Virginia. These nations were not one single group. They had different languages, leaders, homes, and ways of using the land. In the coastal Tidewater, Algonquian-speaking peoples included the Powhatan chiefdom, a group of many towns led by Wahunsenacawh in the early 1600s.
- ② West of the Tidewater, the Monacan people spoke a Siouan language. They lived near rivers and in the Piedmont and mountain areas. Farther south, the Nottoway and Meherrin spoke Iroquoian languages. Each nation made choices that fit its place. For example, people used nearby forests, rivers, and fields for food, travel, and shelter each day.
- ③ Diversity did not mean that nations never shared ideas or traded. Indigenous people traded goods such as copper, shells, food, and tools. Still, it is important to notice differences instead of treating all nations alike. Comparing language, location, and leadership helps us describe how Virginia's Indigenous nations were both connected and distinct from one another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which language group included the Powhatan chiefdom?

2 How were the Monacan language and the Nottoway and Meherrin languages different?

3 Where did the Monacan live, and where were the Nottoway and Meherrin located?

4 What three things does the passage say can help people describe differences among Indigenous nations?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences comparing the Powhatan chiefdom and the Monacan people. Include one difference in location, one difference in language, and a sentence explaining why these differences matter.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show ways Virginia's Indigenous nations differed, then circle the name of each nation you read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which language group included the Powhatan chiefdom?	The Powhatan chiefdom was part of the Algonquian-speaking peoples.
2	How were the Monacan language and the Nottoway and Meherrin languages different?	The Monacan spoke a Siouan language. The Nottoway and Meherrin spoke Iroquoian languages.
3	Where did the Monacan live, and where were the Nottoway and Meherrin located?	The Monacan lived west of the Tidewater, in Piedmont and mountain areas near rivers. The Nottoway and Meherrin lived farther south.
4	What three things does the passage say can help people describe differences among Indigenous nations?	Language, location, and leadership.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Powhatan chiefdom was in the coastal Tidewater and used an Algonquian language. The Monacan lived west of the Tidewater and spoke a Siouan language. These differences show that Virginia's Indigenous nations should not all be treated alike.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately use the passage. For the open task, look for both required differences and a conclusion that recognizes diversity among nations.