

Virginia Voices

Read evidence about Virginia's Indigenous nations, past and present.

VS.2 "The student will apply history and social science skills to describe the Indigenous nations of Virginia past and present by describing how archaeologists have recovered artifacts from important places in the history of Indigenous people..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of the three language groups. Underline details about archaeologists, land and water use, or Indigenous communities today, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside each underlined detail to show its topic.

Evidence of Living Nations

- ① Archaeologists study objects and clues left by people long ago. At Werowocomoco, an important Powhatan place beside the York River, they dig carefully and record where each find lies. Pottery pieces, stone tools, animal bones, and dark soil marks can show that people lived, worked, and gathered there for many centuries before English settlers arrived.
- ② Around 1600, Virginia's Indigenous nations spoke languages from three major groups. Algonquian-speaking peoples lived mostly in the Tidewater. Siouan-speaking peoples lived mainly in the Piedmont. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, including the Nottoway, lived in southern Virginia. A shared language group did not make nations alike. Nations had their own leaders, villages, traditions, and ways of making decisions.
- ③ Virginia's Indigenous people used the environment in many ways. They grew corn, beans, and squash, fished rivers, hunted, and gathered wild plants. Their homes and travel routes fit local land and water. Today, Indigenous nations continue to protect traditions through community events, language work, crafts, and teaching. They are not only part of the past. They are active communities in Virginia today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What do archaeologists do at Werowocomoco, and what can their finds show?

2 Name the three major language groups and tell where each group lived.

3 What two details show that Indigenous nations were diverse, even when they shared a language group?

4 Describe two ways Indigenous people used the environment around 1600. How did land or water help them?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled "Virginia's Indigenous Nations." Connect one archaeology detail, one detail about diversity or language, and one way people used the environment around 1600 to explain why Indigenous nations are living communities today.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the names of the three language groups. Underline details about archaeologists, land and water use, or Indigenous communities today, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside each underlined detail to show its topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do archaeologists do at Werowocomoco, and what can their finds show?	They dig carefully and record where each find lies. Their finds can show that people lived, worked, and gathered there for centuries before English settlers arrived.
2	Name the three major language groups and tell where each group lived.	Algonquian-speaking peoples lived mostly in the Tidewater. Siouan-speaking peoples lived mainly in the Piedmont. Iroquoian-speaking peoples lived in southern Virginia.
3	What two details show that Indigenous nations were diverse, even when they shared a language group?	Nations had their own leaders, villages, traditions, and ways of making decisions. Any two of these details show diversity.
4	Describe two ways Indigenous people used the environment around 1600. How did land or water help them?	They grew crops, fished rivers, hunted, and gathered wild plants. Land and water provided places and resources for food, homes, and travel.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Virginia's Indigenous Nations At Werowocomoco, pottery pieces and stone tools help archaeologists learn about people who lived there long ago. Virginia included Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian language groups, but each nation had its own traditions and leaders. Around 1600, people grew crops and fished rivers, using local land and water. Indigenous nations continue to share traditions and teach others in active Virginia communities today.

Accept equivalent wording that is supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for all three required historical connections and a clear statement that Indigenous nations continue in Virginia today.