

Virginia is My Favorite State

Curriculum: Social Studies

Grade: Kindergarten

Virginia Standards of Learning: HSS.K.3 HSS.K.8

Objectives: Students will:

- *identify the symbols of Virginia*
- *use simple maps to become aware of the physical shape and regions of Virginia*

Time Required: 60 minutes

Materials and Resources: map of the United States, map of Virginia, worksheet, emblem and symbol graphics, scissors, glue stick, construction paper, white paper, crayons or markers

Procedure:

1. Display map of the United States. Explain that there are 50 states that make up the United States and that Virginia is one of them.
2. Review map directions- North, South, East and West.
 - *Place a marker somewhere in the United States. Ask individual students if they think Virginia is North, South, East, or West of the marker.*
 - *Move the marker in the direction the student indicates.*
 - *Continue asking individual students until the marker is placed over Virginia.*
 - *Ask students what is to the North, South, East, and West of Virginia.*
 - *North- Washington DC*
 - *South- Disney World*
 - *East- Atlantic Ocean*
 - *West-Grand Canyon*
3. Explain that there are three main regions in Virginia and indicate these areas on the map.
 - *tidewater, piedmont, and mountain*
4. Indicate these areas on the Virginia map. Talk about what is in each region.
 - *Mountain region- mountains, coal, farms*
 - *Piedmont region- capital is located in Richmond*
 - *Tidewater- rivers and the ocean*
5. Remind students that each state in the United States has chosen trees, flowers, insects, animals, etc. that are native to the state to be the state's symbols.
6. Review Virginia's symbols with the students, using the graphics provided.
7. Pass out the construction paper and white paper to the class. Explain that they are going to make a Virginia booklet. Students should fold the paper in half to make a booklet, placing the white paper inside the construction paper. (Teachers may pre-make the booklets to save time.)
8. Hand out the worksheet to the class.
 - *Have the class color the symbols on their worksheet to look like the ones they see in the picture.*
 - *Cut out each piece.*



- On the front cover, students should write “Virginia”
- On the first inside page, students should glue the state of Virginia in the middle and write the map directions in the appropriate place. Students should also indicate where the capital, Richmond, is located.
- On the second page, students should draw a picture of what is North of Virginia. On the third page, South of Virginia. On the fourth page, West of Virginia. On the fifth, East of Virginia.
- On the sixth page, students should glue Virginia’s regions in the correct order to the page and write “Regions” at the top.
- On the seventh page, students should tape their colored symbols of Virginia to the page and re-write the name underneath the symbol.
- On the last page, students should draw what they like most about Virginia.

Assessment:

1. Student is able to correctly identify Virginia’s regions and understands map directions.
2. Student’s finished booklet illustrates acquired knowledge.

Extension:

1. Go outside and use map directions to help students find a dogwood tree on the school’s property.
2. Print the following song on a large sheet of paper, and sing it when you are teaching the Virginia lessons.

Virginia is Our Favorite State (tune: London Bridge)

1. Virginia is our favorite state, favorite state, favorite state
Virginia is our favorite state because we all live here
2. The cardinal is our special bird, special bird, special bird,
The cardinal is our special bird and the dogwood is our flower.
3. Tobacco, peanuts, corn and wheat, corn and wheat, corn and wheat,
Tobacco, peanuts, corn and wheat are some things that we grow.
4. Peaches, apples, milk and ham, milk and ham, milk and ham,
Peaches, apples, milk and ham are some foods we enjoy.
5. Cattle, horses, poultry, fish and pigs, poultry, fish and pigs, poultry, fish and pigs,
Cattle, horses, poultry, fish and pigs are our important animals.
6. Soil, water, forests and coal, forests and coal, forests and coal,
Soil, water, forests and coal are natural resources.
7. Mining, lumbering, fishing and farming, fishing and farming, fishing and farming
Mining, lumbering, fishing and farming are our leading industries.





Boat: Chesapeake Bay Deadrise

The Chesapeake Bay Deadrise was adopted as the official boat of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1988 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Gerald L. Baliles.

The Chesapeake Bay deadrise is a type of work boat used in the Chesapeake Bay. Traditionally wooden hulled, the deadrise is characterized by a sharp bow quickly becoming a flat bottom hull, with no deadrise. There is a small cabin structure forward and a large open cockpit and work area aft.

The deadrise workboat is used by most watermen on the Chesapeake Bay. The deadrise accommodates the heavy, bulky equipment used for a variety of tasks. A culling board, and tongs or dredge are used in oystering in the winter months. Crab pots, bushel baskets, and trash cans are used during the summer crabbing season. Nets, stakes, and net tubes are used in setting gill nets year-round. The deadrise's size and capacity allow the waterman to travel farther across the Bay and carry more seafood back to market.

The deadrise has also become popular with pleasure boaters. These heavy-duty boats withstand long days of fishing and can carry large groups. The romance of the watermen's profession and nostalgia for the traditions of the Chesapeake Bay have created a market for these workhorses of the water.



Fish: Brook Trout

The Brook Trout was adopted as the official fish of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1993 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Douglas Wilder.

Characteristics: Most colorful of our trout. Back is a dark olivegreen with light wavy or wormy markings. Sides are lighter, sometimes with a bluish cast, yellowish spots and red spots with a light blue halo around them. Belly is white with bright orange fins. Fins have outer edges of white with a black line separating it from the orange. Ten to 16 inches and 1 to 2 lbs. is a good-sized brookie. Native brookies seldom grow beyond 12 inches in Virginia streams.

Distribution: Over 400 streams or portions of stream contain brook trout. Many of the streams and ponds in the Shenandoah National Park and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest have native brook trout. Rivers and Streams: Crooked Creek, Little Stoney Creek, Rapidan River, Rose River, Hughes River, Jeremy's Run, Laurel Fork and Dry River. Lakes: Laurel Bed, Coles Creek and Mill Creek reservoirs, Lexington City Reservoir and Switzer Lake. Colder, cleaner waters and smaller creeks and beaver ponds. Does best in water temperatures of 68°F or less.

Food: Feed mainly on insect larvae for most of their lives, including caddis and mayfly nymphs, but also on small fish and crayfish. Tend to be mostly daytime feeders.



Insect: Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

The Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly was adopted as the official insect of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1991 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Douglas Wilder.

Characteristics: The Eastern tiger swallowtail is a large (12 cm wingspan) swallowtail butterfly. Adult males are yellow, with four black “tiger stripes” on each fore wing. The trailing edges of the fore and hind wings are black which is broken with yellow spots. On the medial margin of the hind wing next to the abdomen there are small red and blue spots. There are two morphs of adult females, a yellow and a dark one. The yellow morph is similar to the male, except that the hind wings have an area of blue between the black margin and the main yellow area. In the dark morph, most of the yellow areas are replaced with a dark gray to a black. A shadow of the “tiger stripes” can still be seen on the dark females. The dark form is more common in the Southern portions of the range, especially in areas also inhabited by the Pipevine Swallowtail, which it seems to mimic.

Distribution: It is found in the Eastern United States, as far north as southern Vermont, and as far West as extreme Eastern Colorado. It flies from spring through fall, and most of the year in the southern portions of its range.

Food: The larvae eat the leaves of a wide variety of trees and shrubs, including cottonwood, tulip tree, sweet bay, Lemon and cherry. Butterflies feed primarily on nectar from flowers. Some also derive nourishment from pollen, tree sap, rotting fruit, dung, and dissolved minerals in wet sand or dirt.



Bird: Northern Cardinal

The cardinal or, more correctly, the northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) was adopted as the official state bird of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 25, 1950.

Characteristics: The Northern Cardinal is a mid-sized songbird with a body length of 21-23 cm (8.3 to 9 inches) and a wingspan of 25-31 cm (10-12 in). It weighs about 45 g (1.6 ounces). The male is slightly larger than the female. The male is a brilliant crimson red with a black face mask over the eyes, extending to the upper chest. The color is dullest on the back and wings. The female is fawn, with mostly grayish-brown tones and a slight reddish tint on the wings, the crest, and the tail feathers. The face mask of the female is gray to black and is less defined than that of the male. Both sexes possess prominent raised crests and bright coral-colored beaks. The beak is cone-shaped and strong. Young birds, both male and female, show the coloring similar to the adult female until the fall, when they molt and grow adult feathers

Distribution: The Northern Cardinal is abundant across the eastern United States from Maine to Texas and in Canada in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. Its range extends west to the U.S.-Mexico border and south through Mexico to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, northern Guatemala, and northern Belize. It was introduced to Bermuda in 1700. It has also been introduced in Hawaii and Southern California. Its natural habitat is woodlands, gardens, shrublands, and swamps. This bird is a permanent resident throughout its range, although it may relocate to avoid extreme weather or if food is scarce.

Food: The diet of the Northern Cardinal consists mainly (up to 90 percent) of weed seeds, grains, and fruits. It is a ground feeder and finds food while hopping on the ground through trees or shrubbery. It eats beetles, cicadas, grasshoppers, snails, wild fruit and berries, corn and oats, sunflower seeds, the blossoms and bark of elm trees, and drinks maple sap from holes made by sapsuckers, an example of commensalism. During the summer months, it shows preference for seeds that are easily husked, but is less selective during winter, when food is scarce. Northern Cardinals also will consume insects and feed their young almost exclusively on insects.



Tree and Flower: Flowering Dogwood

The flowering dogwood was adopted as the official tree and flower of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1918 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Westmoreland Davis. It was chosen because it was thought to foster a feeling of pride in the Commonwealth and stimulate an interest in the history and traditions of the Commonwealth.

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is one of America's most popular ornamental trees. Known to most people simply as dogwood, it has other common names, including boxwood and cornel. The species name *florida* is Latin for flowering, but the showy petal-like bracts are not in fact flowers. The bright red fruit of this fast-growing short-lived tree are poisonous to humans but provide a great variety of wildlife with food. The wood is smooth, hard and close-textured and now used for specialty products.

Flowering dogwood has many crowded, small, yellowish perfect flowers, borne in terminal clusters in the spring before the leaves appear, and surrounded by four snow-white, petal-like bracts. The bracts form "flowers" 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4 in) across and provide a spectacular display in the springtime. Occasionally, trees with salmon-colored or light-pink bracts are found in nature. Pink and red flowering dogwoods and other cultivars with special ornamental characteristics are commonly propagated from clones by commercial nurseries.

The range of flowering dogwood extends from extreme southwestern Maine west to New York, extreme southern Ontario, central Michigan, central Illinois, and central Missouri; south to extreme southeast Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, east Texas; and east to north Florida. A variety also grows in the mountains of Nuevo León and Veracruz, Mexico.



Fossil: *Chesapecten jeffersonius*

The *Chesapecten jeffersonius* was adopted as the official fossil of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1993 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Douglas Wilder.

The *Chesapecten jeffersonius* was named to honor Thomas Jefferson. It is the fossilized form of an extinct scallop, which lived in the early Pliocene epoch between four and five million years ago on Virginia's coastal plain. Now they are commonly found along the James River in Surry and James City counties.



Dog: American Foxhound

The American Foxhound was adopted as the official dog of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1966 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. It was chosen because George Washington, the father of our country and one of Virginia's most illustrious citizens, imported fox hounds into the Commonwealth for hunting purposes and all fox hounds are descendents of these dogs.

Characteristics: The American Foxhound is a breed of dog that is cousin to the English Foxhound. They are scent hounds, bred to hunt foxes by scent. Male American Foxhound are usually 26-29 inches tall and females 25-28 inches tall and weigh typically between 40-65 pounds. The foxhound's chest is rather narrow. It has a long muzzle, and a large, domed skull. The ears are wide and low-set. The eyes are hazel or brown, and are large and wide-set. The coat is short and harsh. Overall, they are very similar to the Beagle, only standing higher and being larger.

The American Foxhound is sweet, kind, loyal, and very loving at a home. While on the hunt the foxhound is a warrior, once a scent is picked up he or she will follow it neglecting any commands.



Beverage: Milk

Milk was adopted as the official state beverage of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1982 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Charles Robb.



Shell: Oyster

The oyster shell was adopted as the official shell of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1974 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

Oysters are bivalve (meaning two shell) mollusks that live in marine habitats or brackish water. They are considered filter-feeders because they draw water in over their gills and food plankton and particles are trapped. Strong adductor muscles are used to keep the two shells closed.

Oysters can be eaten half shelled, raw, smoked, boiled, baked, fried, roasted, stewed, canned, pickled, steamed, broiled (grilled) or used in a variety of drinks. Other types, such as pearl oysters, are not widely eaten. Pearl oysters are not closely related to true oysters. They are in a totally different family, the Pteriidae (Feathered Oysters). Both cultured pearls and natural pearls can be obtained from these oysters.

Oysters are fished by simply gathering them from their beds. A variety of means are used. In very shallow waters they can be gathered by hand or with small rakes. In somewhat deeper water, long-handled rakes or oyster tongs are used to reach the beds.



Folk Dance: Square Dance

Square dancing was adopted as the official folk dance of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1991 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

The square dance is a popular type of folk dance in the United States. This dance for four couples, or groups of four couples, is performed in a compact framework of a square, each couple forming a side. Traditionally accompanied by a fiddle, accordion, banjo and guitar, the couples perform a variety of movements prompted by the patter or singing calls (instruction) of a “caller”. Cooperative movement is the hallmark of well-executed square dancing.



Bat: Virginia Big-Eared Bat

The Virginia Cave Board came up with the idea of a state bat to use as a tool for educating Virginians about caves and the creatures that inhabit them. A board member thought of the Virginia big-eared bat as an ideal candidate because of its name and its status as a federally endangered species.

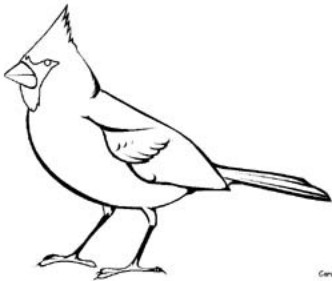
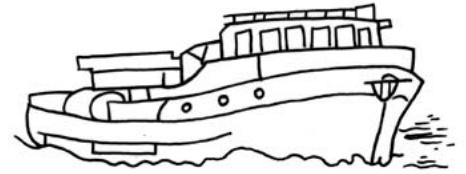
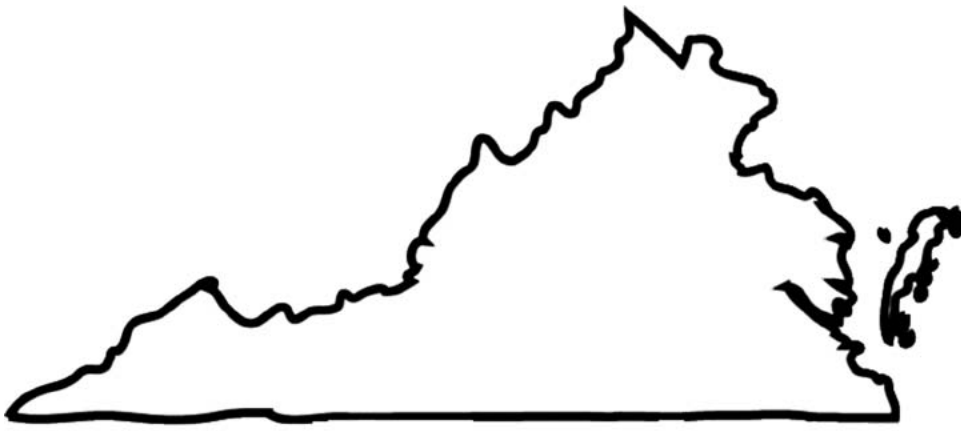
On March 22, 2005, Governor Marc Warner signed the legislation designating the Virginia Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) as the official state bat of the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective July 1, 2005.

Characteristics: This bat is of medium size (total length= 90-112 mm, and weight 9-12 grams) with huge ears joined across the forehead. They have elongated nostril openings, soft long fur, with the dorsal hairs dark, brown at the tip. Females gather from diverse hibernacula during April and May to form maternity colonies in warm caves. At rest, the ears are coiled slightly and lie along the neck. It is one of only two Virginia bat species which roost in caves in the summer. In the winter they commonly roost singly or in small groups. This is not a migratory bat, although, if disturbed, the entire colony may move to an alternate site. Lifespan is 16 years. These bats are designated as state and federally endangered mainly due to their small population and limited habitat and distribution.

Distribution: It is presently known to occur in three caves in Tazewell County during the summer, and five caves (Highland, Bland and Tazewell counties) in the winter. It is one of two Virginia bat species which roost in caves in the summer. They are found exclusively in limestone caves. There are also only three known maternity colonies.

Foods:

This species subsists mostly on moths but also Neuroptera, Coleoptera, Mecoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera. This bat feeds mostly over open pasture, corn and alfalfa fields, and around the crowns of trees.



Cardinal

