

Welcome To Virginia

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Virginia. It is an eastern state on the Atlantic Ocean. Virginia is famous for traditional charm, American History, Presidents, the Appalachians, the Pentagon, and colonization! It is the 35th largest state and the 12th most populous. You might know some of the major cities, like Richmond, Norfolk, Bristol, Arlington, and Charlottesville. The state capital is Richmond. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Virginia, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Virginia is the home of Jamestown, which was the first successful and lasting European colony in North America. The story of John Smith and Pocahontas happened in Jamestown, Virginia. Virginia became one of the first 13 states when America rebelled and became its own nation, free from England. Because it used to be a colony of England, Virginia is known as 'Old Dominion.' It has remained a key state throughout our nation's history. Many important battles in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War happened in Virginia. More recently, Jamestown celebrated its 400th year.

Virginia has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Virginia has some of the highest median household incomes in the country, too. Overall, it has a strong economy with a lot of different industries. The Pentagon building is in Arlington, Virginia. Virginia also has a very high defense budget and a lot of government jobs. Technology is a big deal in Virginia as well, and it's one of our country's top technology states, with computer chips, the internet, and military technology being huge sources of income. Coal is still a large income source for the state.

Virginia is also known for its culture. It has a very strong colonial flavor. The architecture, the food, and the lifestyle are very influential in the American South. They continue to have festivals and other cultural events that help shape the region's attitudes. Virginia is particularly strong in educational performance, too. Several famous colleges are in Virginia.

You can't mention Virginia without talking about the mountains or the ocean. With a long stretch of Atlantic coast in the east and a mountainous west, Virginia has a variety of environments to see. There are mountains, forests, flatlands, and coastal areas to visit. There is a lot of natural beauty here in Virginia to go with the long history. The Shenandoah Valley is particularly beautiful.

Now that you know a little more about Virginia, are you thinking about visiting? There are many things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Virginia's nickname?
 - A. The Colony State
 - B. The English State
 - C. Old Dominion
 - D. New Dominion

2. True or False: Virginia was the home of the first successful European colony in America.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. What is Virginia's population ranking among our states?
 - A. 12th
 - B. 13th
 - C. 14th
 - D. 15th

4. Which famous Indian girl came from the land that is now Virginia?
 - A. Sacagawea
 - B. Maria Tallchief
 - C. Hiawatha
 - D. Pocahontas

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Virginia? Why or Why Not?

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