



For additional copies of this publication or other legislative information, please contact:

Information & Communications Services (ICS)  
House of Delegates Clerk's Office  
State Capitol  
PO Box 406 • Richmond, Va 23218

(804) 698-1500 or Toll Free 1-877-391-FACT  
HICS@house.virginia.gov • virginiageneralassembly.gov

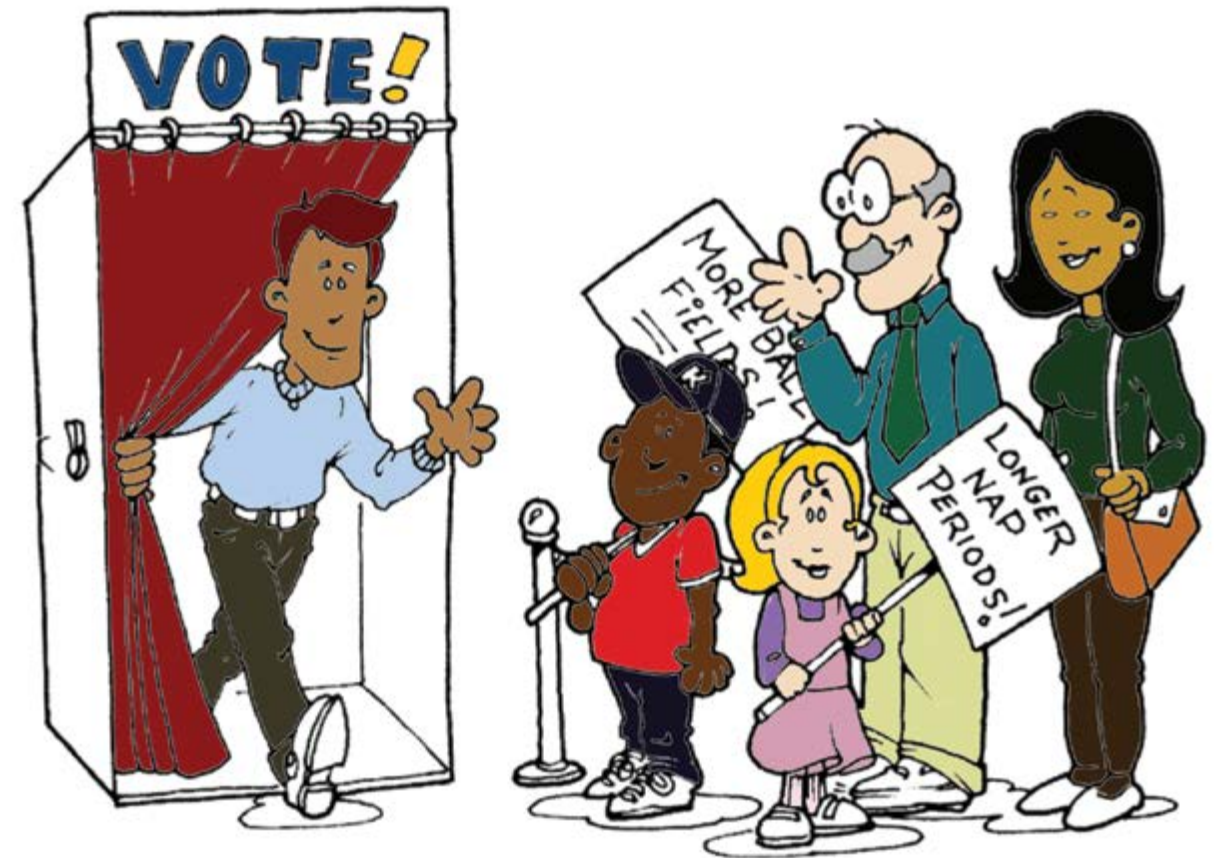
G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates

**Answer Sheet!** Use your smartphone to scan the QR code. You will need a free QR code reader app to view. You can also view the answer sheet at [http://tiny.cc/hodab\\_answers](http://tiny.cc/hodab_answers)



# Virginia House of Delegates

# ACTIVITY BOOK



# For Teachers and Parents:

Virginia Social Studies SOLs covered in this book:

K.1	USI.7d
K.2	USII.2c
1.2	CE.2b
1.4	CE.3d
2.11	CE.6b
3.10	CE.7a
3.11	CE.7b
VS.2c	CE.8a
VS.3b	CE.8b
VS.3c	VUS.2
VS.3d	VUS.5b
VS.4c	VUS.5d
VS.6a	GOVT.2c
VS.6b	GOVT.2d
VS.10a	GOVT.8a
USI.5a	GOVT.8b
USI.6c	GOVT.9c
USI.7b	

The complete text of these standards can be found on the Virginia Department of Education website.

In addition, the House of Delegates Legislative Education and Development (LEAD) Office has additional resources for teachers, parents, and students regarding the legislative process and Virginia's rich history.

# Virginia History

As citizens of The United States of America, it is important to understand the nation's past and present.

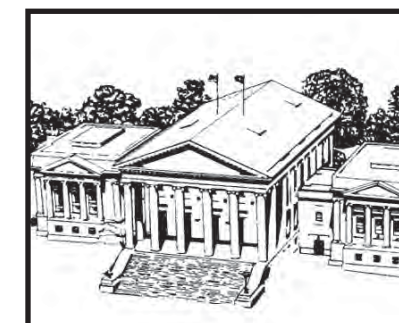
In 1606, King James I gave charters to the Virginia Company of London to establish a settlement. The Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery set sail and landed in the New World in 1607. The colonists named the settlement Jamestown, in honor of King James I.

As Jamestown grew, a government was formed. In 1619, the Governor called a meeting of the General Assembly. The Assembly included two citizen representatives (called "burgesses") from each of the 11 settlements in the Virginia colony, the Governor, and the Governor's Council.

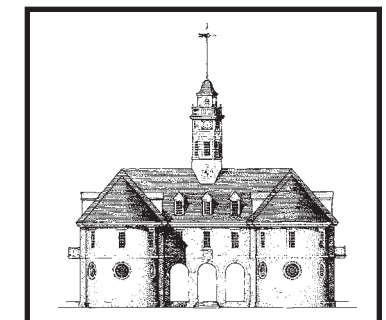
Today, there are three branches of government in Virginia: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The Governor leads the agencies that are contained in the executive branch. The General Assembly manages the legislative, and the state Supreme Court is head of the judicial branch.



Jamestown Capitol



Richmond Capitol



Williamsburg Capitol

# About the General Assembly

Today, the General Assembly of Virginia is made up of two houses, the House of Delegates and the Senate. All members of the General Assembly are elected by the voters from their respective districts. The primary duties of the General Assembly are to make, amend, and pass laws.

The General Assembly meets annually starting on the second Wednesday in January. The Sessions are scheduled to last for 60 days in even-numbered years and 30 days in odd-numbered years. Often, the odd-numbered year session is extended to 46 days. The Governor may call a Special Session when he thinks it is necessary or when asked by two-thirds of the members of both the House and the Senate. A Reconvened Session is held after adjournment of each Regular or Special Session to consider the Governor's recommendations and vetoes to legislation.

## House of Delegates

- 100 members
- serves a two-year term
- the presiding officer is the Speaker
- the Clerk is responsible for the administration of the House



## Senate

- 40 members
- serves a four-year term
- the presiding officer is the Lieutenant Governor
- the Clerk is responsible for the administration of the Senate



# Government Word Builder

Use only the letters in the word GOVERNMENT to make as many words as you can. There are 198 possible words. How many can you make?

G O V E R N M E N T



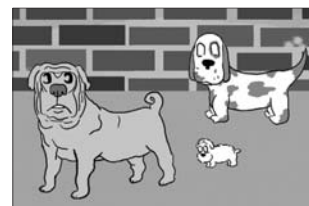
# Law Squad



If there were no laws, things would be a mess in our cities and towns -- just like in this picture. But you and I can join the Law Squad and clean up the mess. All we need are a few good laws.

Below are close-ups of the big picture for you to study. And here's a list of the kinds of laws that are missing. Write the letter of the law under each picture that would fix the problem it shows.

- A. Leash Law: Keep pets on a leash in public places
- B. Litter Law: Place trash in proper containers.
- C. Zoning Law: Businesses serving alcohol must not be placed near school buildings.
- D. Public Nuisance Law: Do not disturb the peace of others in public.
- E. Traffic Law: Drivers and pedestrians must obey street lights and traffic signs.
- F. Graffiti Law: Do not damage or deface the property of others.
- G. Assembly Law: Do not block public entrances while demonstrating.
- H. Shoplifting Law: Customers must pay for any merchandise they take from a store.



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

The following steps are the typical process by which bills become laws:

## 1. Drafting and Introduction

A legislator has an IDEA FOR A BILL, usually from a constituent.

The legislative member presents the idea and requests that it be DRAFTED INTO A BILL. In January, when the General Assembly meets, the Delegates and Senators introduce their bills in their respective chambers.



## 2. Committee Action

The bill is REFERRED to a committee. The members of the committee consider the bill and decide what action to take. This is when the public may speak.

After listening to the testimony, the committee will vote to recommend the passage or defeat of the bill. They may also offer changes (called amendments). If the committee recommends passage of the bill, it then goes back to the chamber where it was introduced.

## 3. "Floor" Action

The title of the bill must be read or printed in the calendar three times.



FIRST READING: The bill is printed in the calendar or is read by the Clerk.

SECOND READING: The bill may be amended after it has been read a second time. In the House of Delegates, the bill will be debated.

THIRD READING: In the Senate, the bill may be debated. A final vote is taken during the third reading.

## 4. Voting

If the bill passes, it is then SENT TO THE OTHER CHAMBER where it follows a similar process of committee action, floor debate, amending, and voting. If the bill passes both houses in the same form, it then goes to the Governor. If the bill is amended by the other house, it is then returned to the body from which it originated for approval of the amendment.



A COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE is usually created to resolve any differences between the House of Delegates and the Senate.

## 5. Governor's Action

Once passed in the same form, the bill is then sent to the Governor for his approval.

The GOVERNOR may:

- sign the bill into law.
- amend the bill and return it to the General Assembly for their approval.
- veto the bill and return it to the General Assembly, where the House of Delegates and Senate may override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of both houses.
- take no action and the bill becomes law without his signature.

## 6. Law

Bills that become law during a Regular Session (or the Reconvened Session that follows) are effective on July 1st, unless otherwise specified.



# Symbols and Emblems

## State Seal

The seal symbolizes victory over tyranny. It shows Virtue, dressed as an Amazon, triumphant over Tyranny. She holds a spear and a sheathed sword. Tyranny grasps a broken chain, and his crown lies fallen nearby.



## State Flag

The state flag and the state seal are similar. The flag has a dark blue background with the front side of the state seal in the middle.



## State Motto

Sic Semper Tyrannis is Latin meaning "Thus Always to Tyrants." It appears at the bottom of the state seal.

## State Flower and Tree

The state flower and tree is the American Dogwood. It blooms in early spring. Its blossom is a tiny cluster of flowers surrounded by four white leaves that look like petals. The wood is so hard that it can be used for furniture. The bark is even used as pigment in black ink!



## State Bird

The Cardinal is the state bird of Virginia. You can spot it in the trees because of its bright red feathers.

## State Insect

The state insect is the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly. Its yellow and black stripes look like a tiger's stripes. These butterflies can have wingspans of 3 to 4 inches!



## State Fish

The Brook Trout is the state fish. It can be found in the clear, cold waters of mountain rivers and streams.

## State Shell

The state shell is the oyster. Sometimes pearls are formed in oysters because of a tiny grain of sand!

## State Dog

The American Foxhound is the state dog. These dogs are descendants of English foxhounds that were brought over from England to hunt.

## State Beverage

Milk is the state beverage. Milk can also be used to make cheese and butter.

# Virginia Word Search

U R I O A X F W P U Z F E O N D C J C N  
A C S E M H G S E I P C Y N C J L L D S  
B O R J I W H I W N N F A X A S E E T D  
J I R Q D E C N S U R J T M D S R G A P  
V E N L C M O N R O E A P K E O K I Y U  
E S M H R E Y F K E N M S P H N N S L Z  
I L T D Q R S F M X E E C S S I D L O R  
N O M H W S S L V E R S N L G E L A R C  
C Y G S L O L V S C E R A R T A D T L C  
G E X W H I N E O U E I I A N K P I N N  
E S E G B Z P P B T C V G I F R D V J E  
J O N O J L T C S I E E D C H E J E S H  
Q B S N I G V A D V L R L D E D A P C Z  
T G E L C Z E U N E A R I N K O M E I V  
E G A W V I J N D C E A E O X S E E T S  
Q O A S E P R N E J F V U E S E S O I G  
L F E W T U P R C R N F T T S P T R Z I  
C F T A O A O D B O A M E W G N O I E S  
R A L J U T O L C A S L N R E L W X N A  
G R D R A B E L S G F W A M W X N S C U  
N A J N I H L E A D O H N S A Q C K A E  
G G E K H C S I O P O R T I S D O P P O  
S S F I L S H E O C E H G D H E M I I K  
N H F N E A E M I V S S O T I C M K T R  
N L E G N E E X O A Z O V C N N I B A E  
A O R J B T S G A N W R E E G H T E L L  
I U S A E E J U R G D A R O T D T E R Y  
B A O M A D I S O N E K N E O F E F T C  
E A N E N S S D P U H S O N N O E S E I  
Z H T S P E A K E R Y G R S U H S Z F L

ADJOURN	DOGWOOD	LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
AMEND	EASTERN SHORE	MADISON
BILL	EXECUTIVE	MONROE
BURGESSES	GENERAL ASSEMBLY	RICHMOND
CAPITAL	GOVERNMENT	SENATOR
CARDINAL	JAMES RIVER	SPEAKER
CITIZEN	JAMESTOWN	TAYLOR
CLERK	JEFFERSON	VETO
COMMITTEE	JUDICIAL	VIRGINIA
CONVENE	KING JAMES	VOTE
DELEGATE	LEGISLATIVE	WASHINGTON



# Mother of Presidents

Virginia is known as the “mother of presidents” because eight U.S. presidents were born here. Using the alphabet code, see if you can find out the names of the Presidents who were born in Virginia.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

23    1    19    8    9    14    7    20    15    14

10    5    6    6    5    18    19    15    14

13    1    4    9    19    15    14

13    15    14    18    15    5

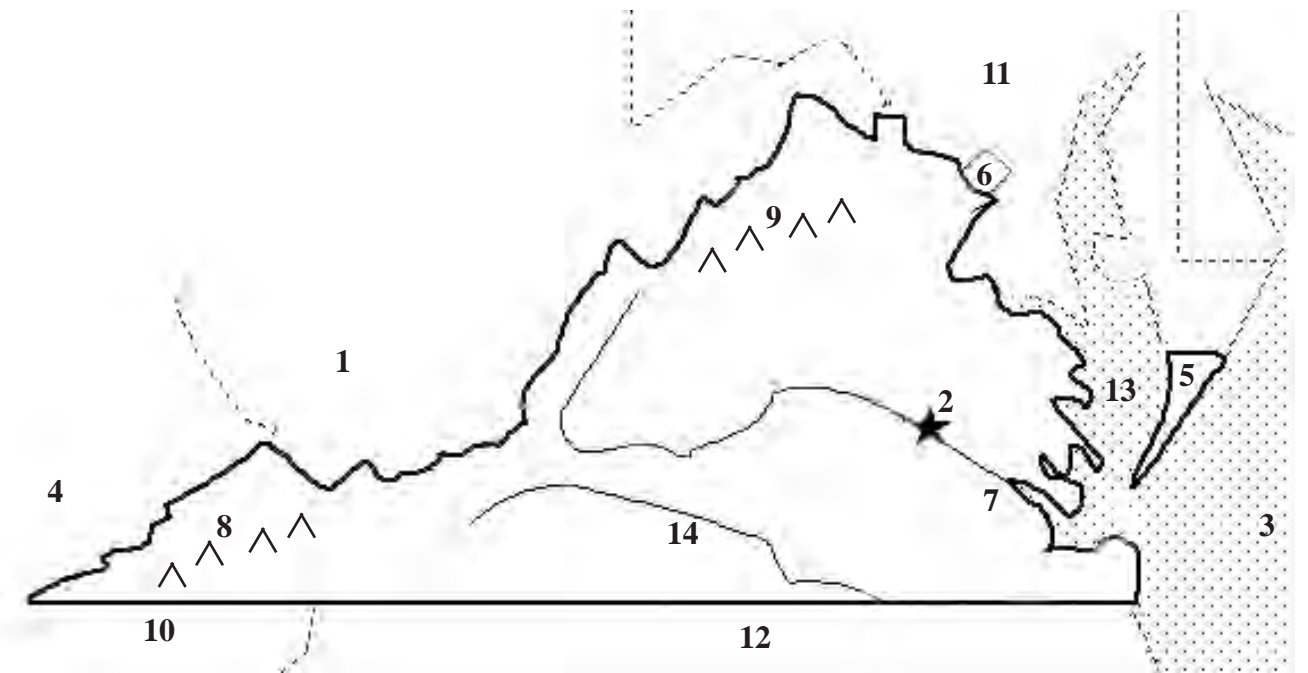
8    1    18    18    9    19    15    14

20    25    12    5    18

20    1    25    12    15    18

23    9    12    19    15    14

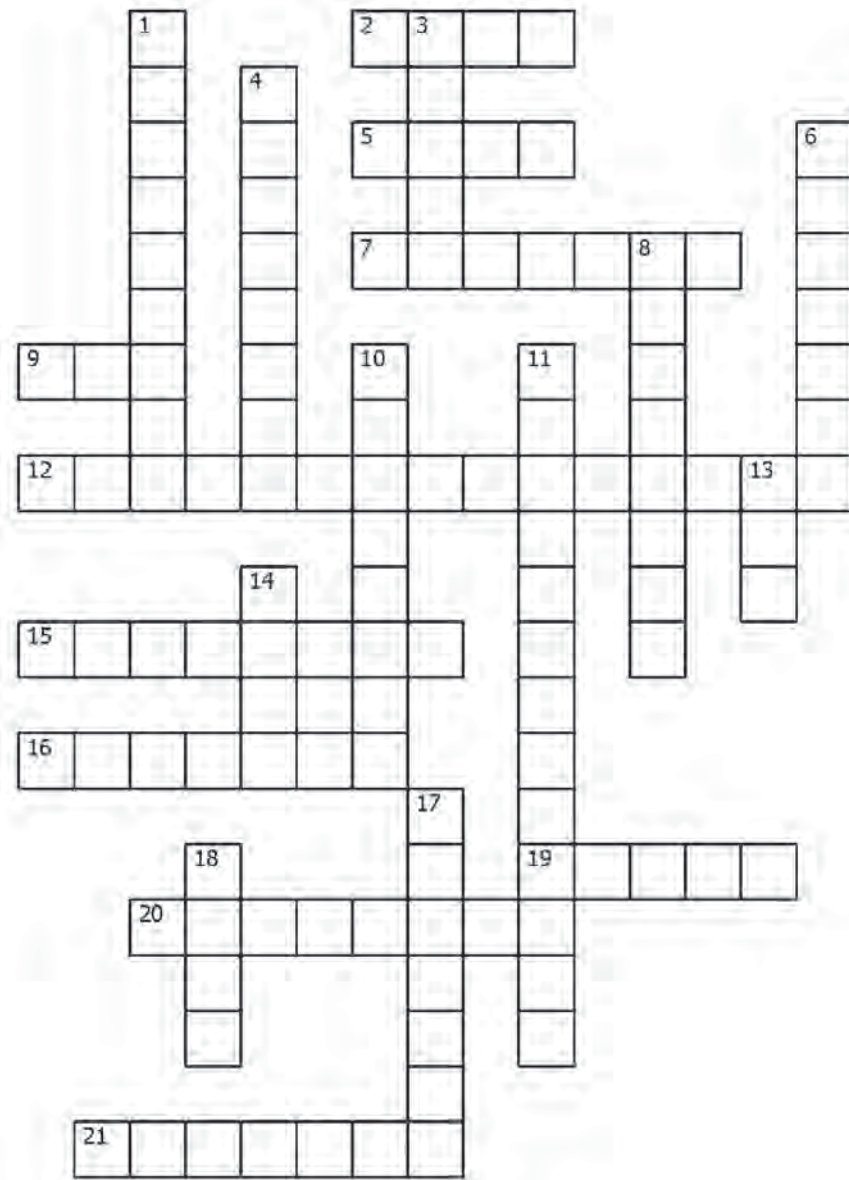
# In and Around Virginia



Print the number in the Virginia map that best describes one of the locations down below.

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ----- Appalachian Mountains | ----- North Carolina   |
| ----- Allegheny Mountains   | ----- Richmond         |
| ----- Atlantic Ocean        | ----- Tennessee        |
| ----- Chesapeake Bay        | ----- Washington, D.C. |
| ----- James River           | ----- West Virginia    |
| ----- Kentucky              | ----- Eastern Shore    |
| ----- Maryland              | ----- Roanoke River    |

# Virginia Crossword



## ACROSS

- 2 Student helper who runs errands.
- 5 The rejection of a bill by the Governor.
- 7 To end the day's session or meeting.
- 9 Delegates serve a term of \_\_\_ years.
- 12 Name given to the entire group of Virginia state lawmakers.
- 15 The state bird of Virginia.
- 16 To assemble for an official meeting.
- 19 There are \_\_\_ branches of government.
- 20 The 10th state.
- 21 Presides over the House of Delegates.

## DOWN

- 1 The first permanent English settlement.
- 3 To change a bill.
- 4 The highest state elected official.
- 6 The month when Regular Session begins.
- 8 Capital of Virginia.
- 10 Represents citizens in the House.
- 11 One of the ships that landed in Jamestown.
- 13 A "rule" passed by the legislature.
- 14 Number of states that border Virginia.
- 17 Represents citizens in the Senate.
- 18 A proposed idea presented to the legislature for consideration.

# A-Mazing Law

**Start Here**

Delegate introduces House bill to the General Assembly.

The committee reviews House bill and votes to report it to the House floor.

House bill is reported and received by the Clerk.

On the Second Reading, the House bill is debated and amended. The House bill receives a recorded vote on the Third Reading and is passed.

House bill is printed and the Speaker of the House refers it to a committee.

House bill is sent to the Senate.

The House bill receives its First Reading and is read by its title (or printed in the calendar).

House bill is referred to a Senate committee and is reported to the Senate floor.

APPROVED!  
The Governor signs the House bill.

House bill is sent to the Governor for approval. The Governor may also offer amendments or veto the House bill.

House bill has now passed the House and Senate in the same form.

House bill is now a LAW!

Thanks for being an active participant in the legislative process. See you at the Capitol!

House bill receives similar Readings on the Senate floor and is passed with a recorded vote.

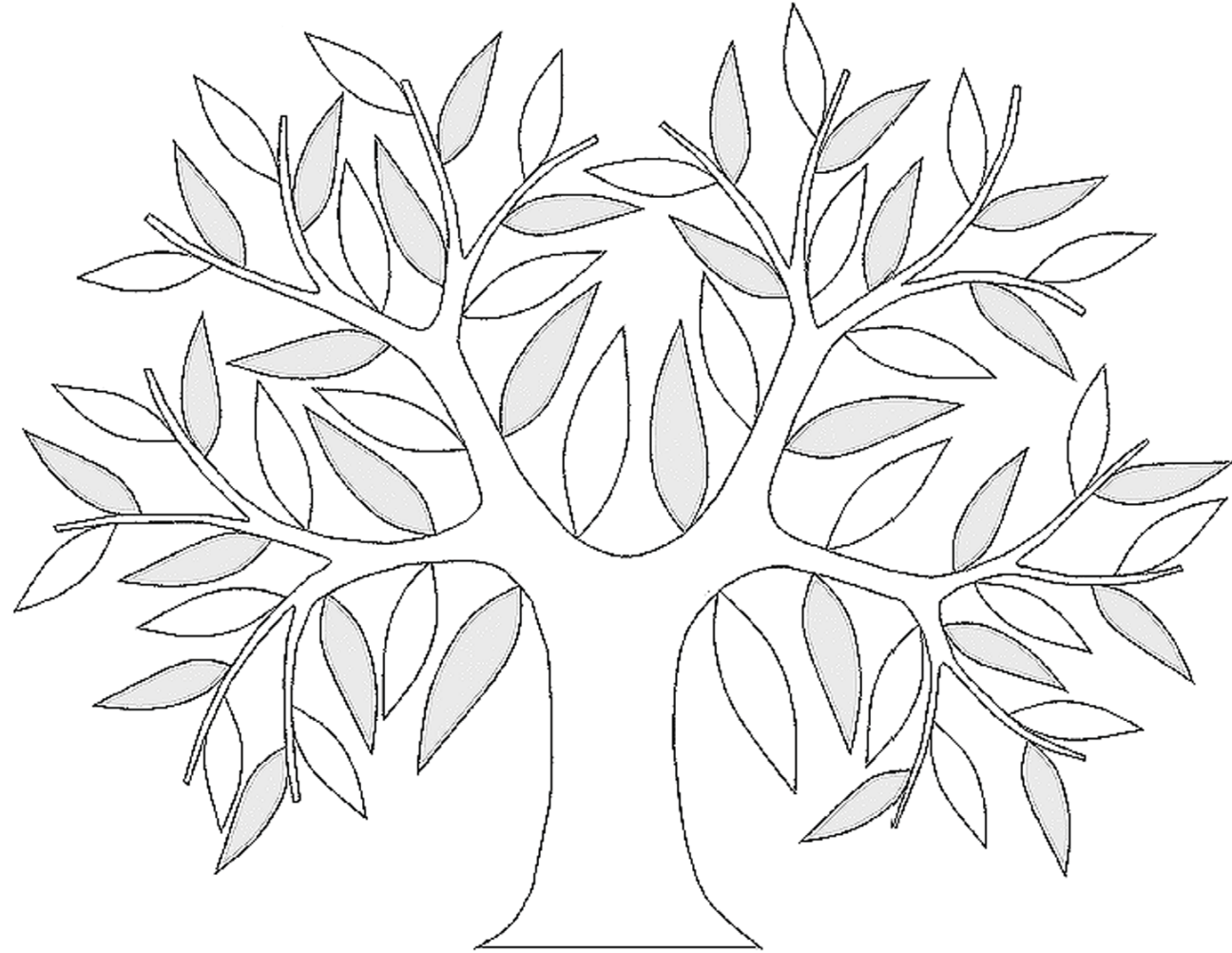
**End Here**



# Hey, That's Our Job!

What are the jobs and powers of the three branches of government? Place an "L" for Legislative, an "E" for Executive, and a "J" for Judicial next to the job that each branch of the state government carries out.

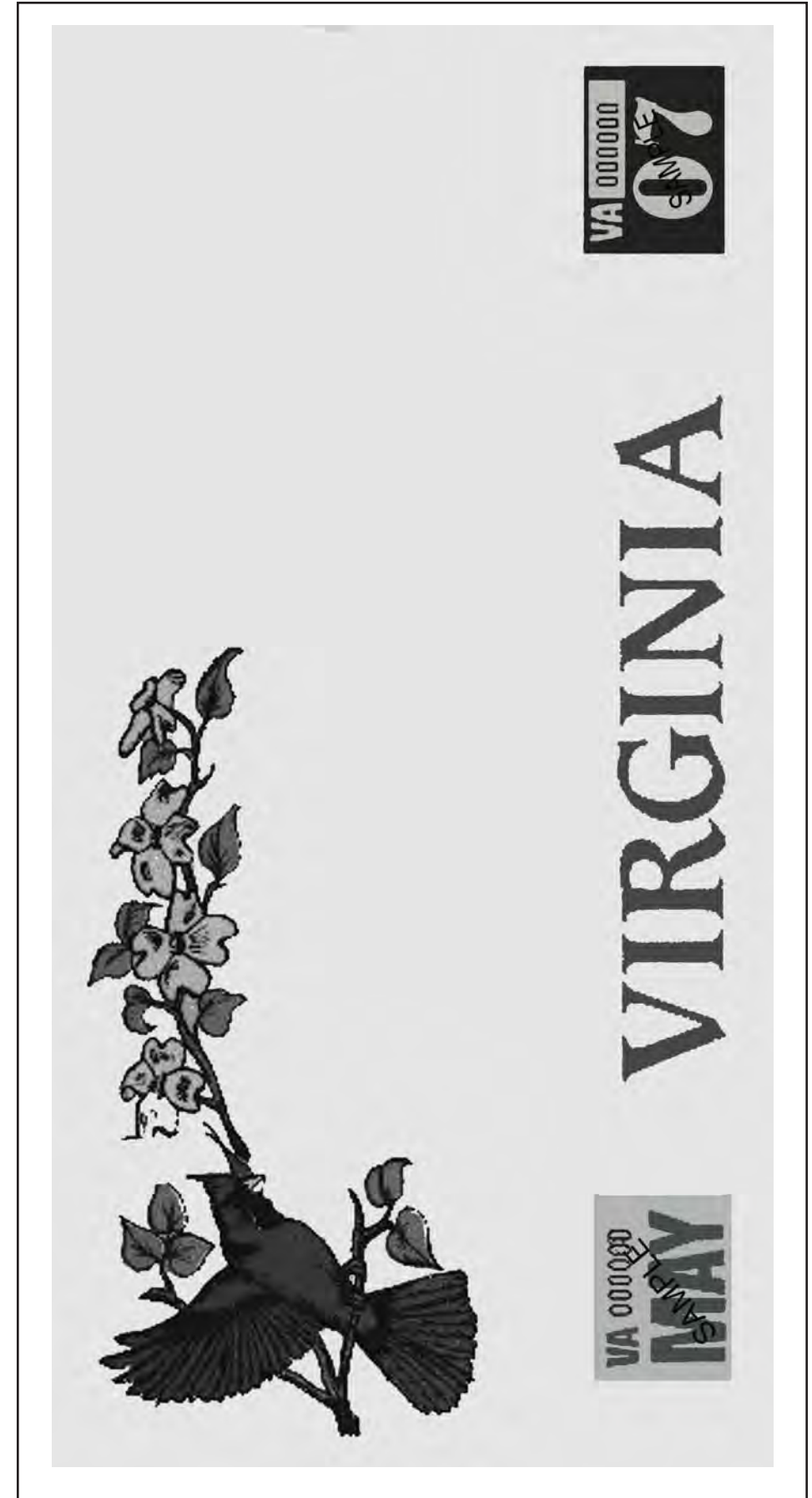
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> tries civil and criminal cases | <input type="checkbox"/> has power of judicial review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prepares the budget            | <input type="checkbox"/> makes laws                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> executes laws of Virginia      | <input type="checkbox"/> grants pardons               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> confirms cabinet officers      | <input type="checkbox"/> approves the budget          |



The Department of Motor Vehicles registers cars and trucks and issues license plates.

When you buy your own car or truck, what do you want your license plate to say? Use the sample license plate below to create your own. Remember, you may use a combination of 7 letters and numbers for your personalized plate.

# Create Your Own





# The Commonwealth of Virginia

While Virginia may generally be referred to as a state, it is officially designated as a "Commonwealth." The Virginia Declaration of Rights set forth the idea that government was created to be the servant of the people. Virginia's founders believed that government was a contract between free people who were united for the common good, or common wealth. As citizens of the Commonwealth, Virginians are encouraged to actively participate in government. This extraordinary form of government depends upon people's consent and participation.

Three other states also call themselves a Commonwealth. Solve the math problems below and use the decoder key to fill in the letter that corresponds to your answer to find out what other states are Commonwealths.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} \hline & & & & & & & \\ \hline 7+6 & 2 \times 1 & 44 \div 2 & 4 \times 5 & 4+1 & 6+5 & 23-10 & 9 \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc} \hline & & & & & & & & & & & \\ \hline 7-0 & 4-2 & 22 \times 1 & 11+11 & 50 \div 2 & 9+9 & 2 \times 5 & 25-2 & 1 \div 1 & 13+9 & 9 \div 3 & 4-3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

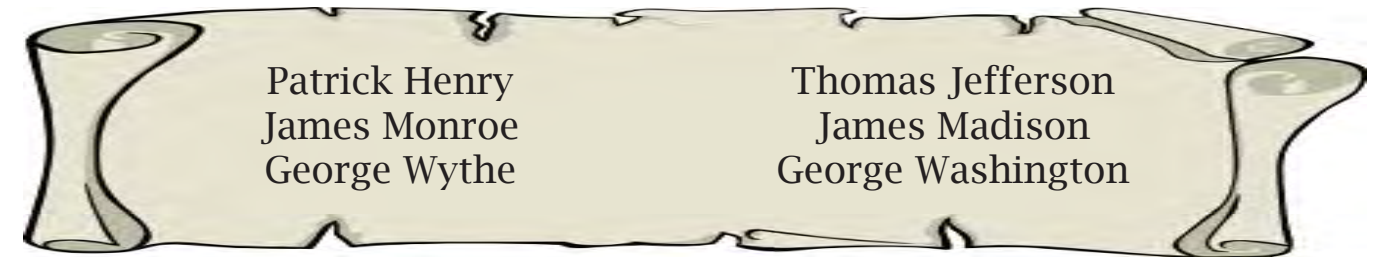
$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccc} \hline & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ \hline 7+10 & 6-5 & 5 \times 5 & 25 \div 1 & 10-9 & 6+5 & 7 \times 3 & 12-7 & 33-8 & 8 \div 4 & 10+10 & 100 \div 5 & 14+11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

### Decoder Key

A= 1	B= 8	C= 11	D= 16	E= 2	F= 19	G= 9
H= 21	I= 3	J= 24	K= 13	L= 10	M= 17	N= 22
O= 4	P= 7	Q= 15	R= 26	S= 25	T= 20	U= 5
V= 23	W= 6	X= 12	Y= 18	Z= 14		

# Founding Fathers

From the Word Bank, find my name and fill in the blank. (Names might be used twice.)



1. I've been a lawyer, statesman, political theorist, musician, planter, architect, and archaeologist. I wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence. Oh, I forgot to mention, I was the third President of the United States.

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I was a lawyer and statesman. When I was 25, I became a member of the Continental Congress. I was America's 5th President.

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I am best known as a patriot, although I was a member of the Continental Congress and the House of Burgesses. I also was a Virginia Governor. Most people probably remember me because of my statement, "Give me liberty or give me death."

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I was the first law professor in the United States at the College of William and Mary from 1779-1789.

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. I was the first President of the United States. Some people call me the "Father of Our Country."

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. My skills at compromise helped bring differing ideas together. This earned me the title "Father of the Constitution."

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. As U.S. President, I issued the Monroe Doctrine.

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. I authorized the purchase of the Louisiana territory when I was President. This was known as the Louisiana Purchase.

Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Virginia Geography

Virginia is divided into 95 counties and 41 independent cities. Find your county/city on the map and draw a star on its location.

Identify and label the five regions of Virginia and then color each one a different color.



# Legislators Have Full-Time Jobs

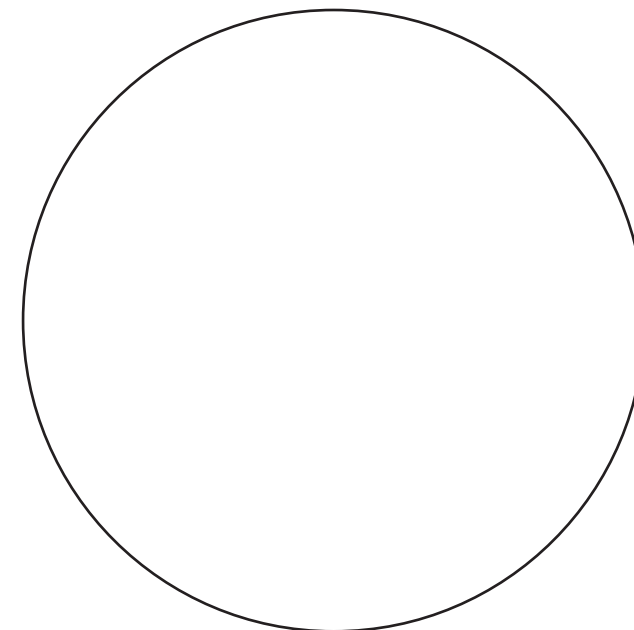
Virginia has what is called a part-time citizen legislature. Virginia lawmakers live, work, and raise a family in the district they represent. The state legislature is in session only two to three months a year, which allows lawmakers to spend a great deal of their time at home, in the community they represent.

Here's a list of some of the various types of work that Virginia's 100 Delegates do when they are back in their district:

Financial: 5  
Law Enforcement: 2  
Engineer/ Architect: 4  
Business/ Service: 14  
Education: 15  
Health/ Medicine: 8

Technology: 7  
Real Estate: 4  
Environment: 3  
Publishing/ Writing: 3  
Miscellaneous: 7  
Attorney: 28

Using the circle below, create a pie graph that shows the breakdown of the job fields that Virginia's 100 Delegates are involved in.





# Write Your Own Bill

Every year, hundreds of proposals are written with the hope that they will become new laws. Many of these proposals come from people who don't work in government, but who have a good idea.

Do you have an idea for a bill? Use the space below to write your bill and how it would affect the citizens of Virginia.



# Virginia Question and Answer

Circle the correct answer.

1. Legal cases in Virginia are heard and decided by

- A. the General Assembly.
- B. the legislative branch.
- C. the Senate.
- D. the judicial branch.

2. This branch decides whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's Constitution.

- A. military
- B. judicial
- C. legislative
- D. executive

3. The legislative branch of the Virginia government is known as the

- A. House of Burgesses.
- B. General Assembly.
- C. General Assimilation.
- D. Congress.

4. How many branches make up Virginia's government?

- A. three
- B. seven
- C. two
- D. five

5. The executive branch of the state government is headed by the

- A. Governor.
- B. Attorney General.
- C. Senator.
- D. President.

6. The highest court in the state judicial branch is

- A. the Virginia Supreme Court.
- B. the Governor.
- C. the General Assembly.
- D. the Attorney General.

7. What is the General Assembly?

- A. a building designed by Thomas Jefferson
- B. the legislative branch of Virginia
- C. part of the judicial branch of Virginia
- D. the executive branch of Virginia

8. The Virginia General Assembly is divided into two parts

- A. the Senate and the House of Burgesses.
- B. the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- C. the Senate and the Congress.
- D. the Senate and the House of Delegates.

9. The Virginia Assembly included the governor of Virginia, the governor's council, and

- A. colonists, chosen by the Governor.
- B. the Governor's family.
- C. representatives elected by the citizens.
- D. the King of England.

10. The primary function of the executive branch is to

- A. make sure that the laws of the state are carried out.
- B. decide cases about people accused of breaking the law.
- C. make the state's laws.
- D. decide whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's Constitution.

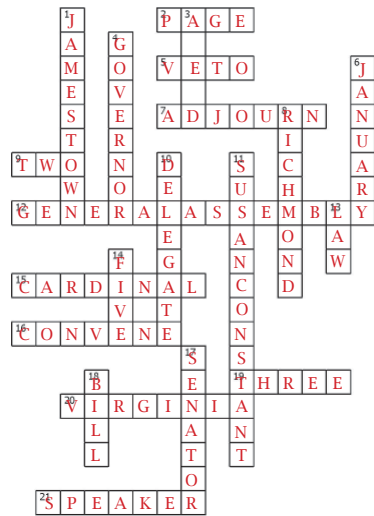
11. The Virginia Assembly, the House of Burgesses, and General Assembly were, at different times, names for

- A. the executive branch of Virginia government.
- B. the judicial branch of Virginia government.
- C. the legislative branch of Virginia government.

## In and Around Virginia

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 8- Appalachian Mountains | 12- North Carolina  |
| 9- Allegheny Mountains   | 2- Richmond         |
| 3- Atlantic Ocean        | 10- Tennessee       |
| 13- Chesapeake Bay       | 6- Washington, D.C. |
| 7- James River           | 1- West Virginia    |
| 4- Kentucky              | 5- Eastern Shore    |
| 11- Maryland             | 14- Roanoke River   |

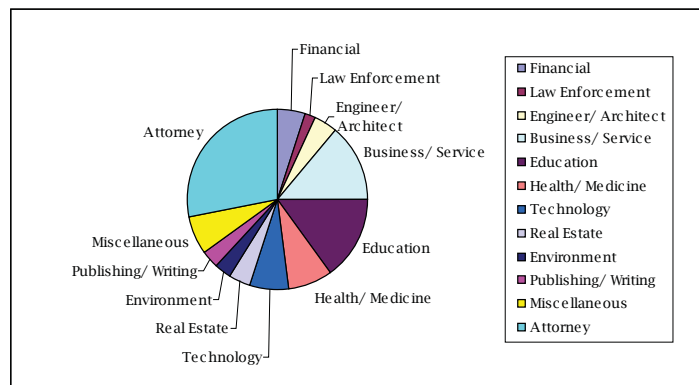
## Virginia Crossword



## The Commonwealth of Virginia

- KENTUCKY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
MASSACHUSETTS

## Legislators Have Full-Time Jobs



## Virginia Question and Answer

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 7. B  |
| 2. B | 8. D  |
| 3. B | 9. C  |
| 4. A | 10. A |
| 5. A | 11. C |
| 6. A |       |

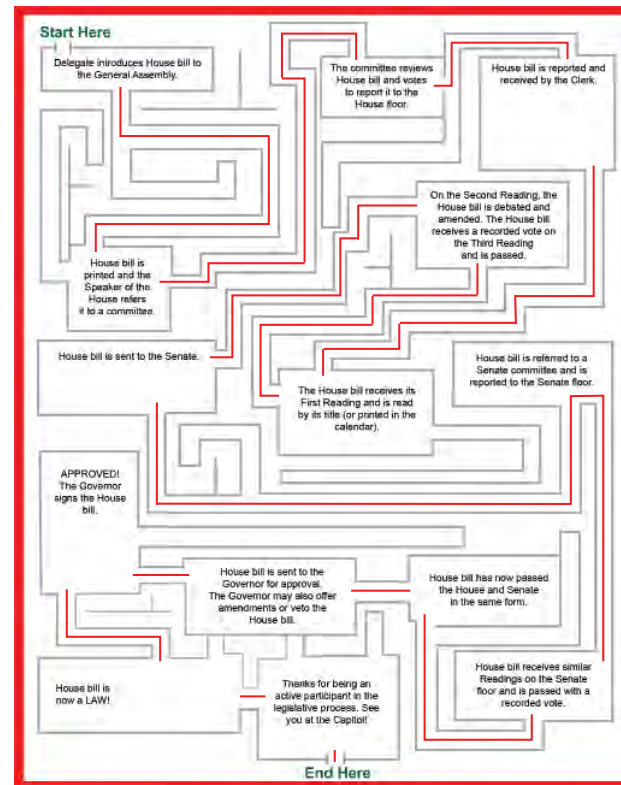
## Founding Fathers

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Thomas Jefferson | 5. George Washington |
| 2. James Monroe     | 6. James Madison     |
| 3. Patrick Henry    | 7. James Monroe      |
| 4. George Wythe     | 8. Thomas Jefferson  |

## Hey, That's Our Job!

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| J- tries civil and criminal cases | J- has power of judicial review |
| E- prepares the budget            | L- makes laws                   |
| E- executes laws of Virginia      | E- grants pardons               |
| L- confirms cabinet officers      | L- approves the budget          |

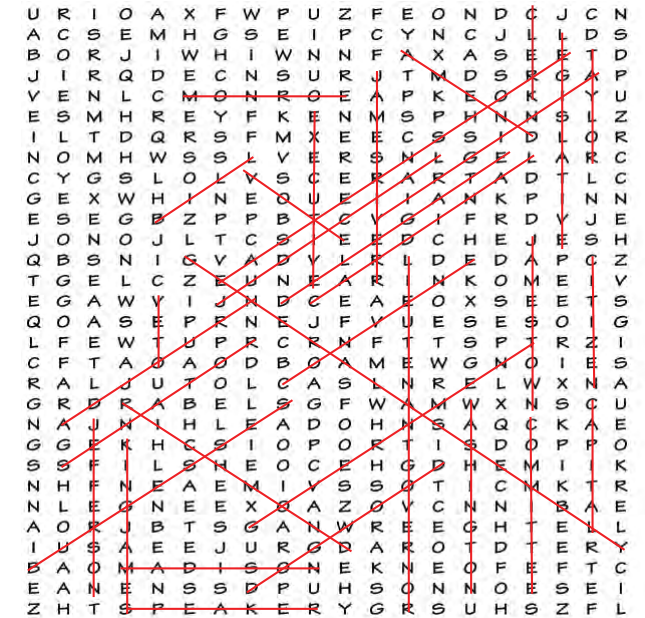
## A-Mazing Law



## Mother of Presidents

- WASHINGTON  
JEFFERSON  
MADISON  
MONROE  
HARRISON  
TYLER  
TAYLOR  
WILSON

## Virginia Crossword



## Law Squad

- G      F      D      B      H  
A      C      E