A FIRST STEP
to the
Virginia General Assembly

An Information and Activities Book
for pre-school and kindergarten students
The State Capitol is located in Richmond. Senators and Delegates come to the Capitol to make laws. Find and circle Richmond on the map.

The James River flows from west to east through Richmond. It begins in the Appalachian Mountains and empties into the Chesapeake Bay.
The Capitol is bright white. Color the Capitol Grounds.

The Senate meets in the West Wing. The House of Delegates meets in the East Wing. The Governor has an office on the third floor of the Capitol.
Follow Senator Commonwealth on a trip through Virginia to gather ideas for new bills. Senator Commonwealth should end up at the State Capitol in Richmond.
A First Step to Learning
How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia

1
Citizens of Virginia vote to elect Senators and Delegates.

2
Hello, I’m a Senator
Hello, I’m a Delegate

The General Assembly is made up of 40 Senators and 100 Delegates.

5
Senators and Delegates take turns talking about new laws.

6
They listen to each other and share ideas.
Senators and Delegates must vote to pass a bill.

The Governor signs a bill to make it law.

Each Senator and Delegate has ideas for new laws by meeting with different people.

The General Assembly meets in Richmond at the Capitol each year for 45 or 60 days.
A First Step to learning
Virginia State Symbols

The official state bird is the **Cardinal**.

Color by Number

“1” is Red
“2” is Black
“3” is Yellow

The Cardinal is red!
The official state flower and tree is the Dogwood

Color by Number

“1” is Brown
“2” is Pink or White
“3” is Green

Dogwood flowers bloom in the spring and are pink or white.
The official state insect is the 
Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

Color by Number

“1” is Yellow
“2” is Black
“3” is Blue
“4” is Red

The stripes of this butterfly are bright yellow and dark black!
The official state fish is the **Brook Trout**

The trout has a green back, light blue sides and bright orange fins. This trout loves the cold water of Virginia’s mountain streams.
Virginia State Symbols

The official state folk dance is the
Square Dance
The official state songs are “Sweet Virginia Breeze” and “Our Great Virginia”
The official state saltwater fish is the **Striped Bass**

The striped bass lives in the waters off Virginia’s coast.

The official state boat is the **Chesapeake Bay Deadrise**

Fishermen use this boat for fishing, crabbing, and gathering oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.
The official state shell is the **Oyster**

Oysters have a grey shell and live under water in the Chesapeake Bay and rivers.

The official state fossil is the **Chesapecten Jeffersonius Fossil**

This is a fossilized form of an extinct scallop. It was named for Thomas Jefferson because of his interest in natural history.
The official state rock is **Nelsonite**

This tan and dark speckled, titanium-laced rock is named after Nelson County, Virginia where it was discovered.

The official state snake is the **Eastern Garter Snake**

The Eastern Garter snake is either a greenish, brown, or black color and has a distinct yellow or white stripe.
The official state dog is the **American Foxhound**

George Washington brought Foxhounds to Virginia to help him with hunting.

The official state bat is the **Big-Eared Bat**

Bats have dark brown fur. You might see one flying outside at night!
The official state beverage is **Milk**

Milk comes from dairy farms in Virginia and is used to make butter and cheese.
Find the Hidden Message!

Use the Key to Decode Virginia’s Nickname

Use the Key to Decode the name of Virginia’s Capital City
The First Step to Knowing How Old I Have to Be to Serve

1. A Senate or House Page must be 13 or 14-years-old.

2. A voter must be 18-years-old.

3. A Senator must be 21-years-old.

4. The Governor must be at least 30-years-old.

5. The Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General must have the same qualifications as the Governor.
The State Seal

Thus Always to Tyrants
Preserving

The State Flag

The flag is deep blue. The State Seal is in the middle.
Virginia’s Nickname
OLD DOMINION

Virginia’s Capital City
RICHMOND
Step further into Virginia Government on the Internet!

**Virginia General Assembly**
Capitol Classroom, Virtual Capitol Tour, “Who’s My Legislator” and more!
http://virginiageneralassembly.gov

**Commonwealth of Virginia**
http://virginia.gov

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