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G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates

Answer Sheet! You may view the answer sheet at https://tinyurl.com/3cdrtuzv

Virginia House of Delegates

ACTIVITY BOOK





WELCOME TO THE
Virginia House of Delegates
ACTIVITY BOOK

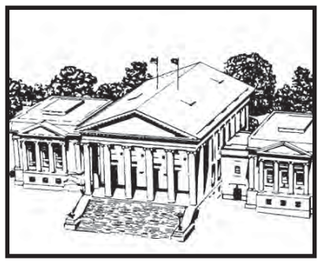
Virginia History

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 eleven settlements in the Virginia colony, the Governor, and the Governor's Council.

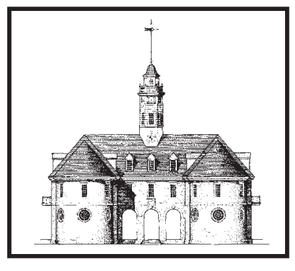
Today, there are three branches of government in Virginia: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The Governor leads the agencies in the executive branch. The General Assembly facilitates legislative activity, and the state Supreme Court is head of the judicial branch.



Richmond Capitol



Jamestown Capitol



Williamsburg Capitol

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 the General Assembly were, at different times, names for Virginia's

A. executive branch of government
B. judicial branch of government.
C. legislative branch of government.
D. congressional branch of government.

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

About the General Assembly

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 duty of the General Assembly is to draft, 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 member
- Two-year terms
- The Speaker is the presiding officer
- The House Clerk is the administrator of the House

Senate

- 40 members
- Four-year terms
- The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer
- The Senate Clerk is the administrator of the Senate

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 legislator 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 report the bill. They may also offer changes (called amendments). If the committee reports 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 by both bodies, the bill is then sent to the Governor for approval.



The GOVERNOR may:

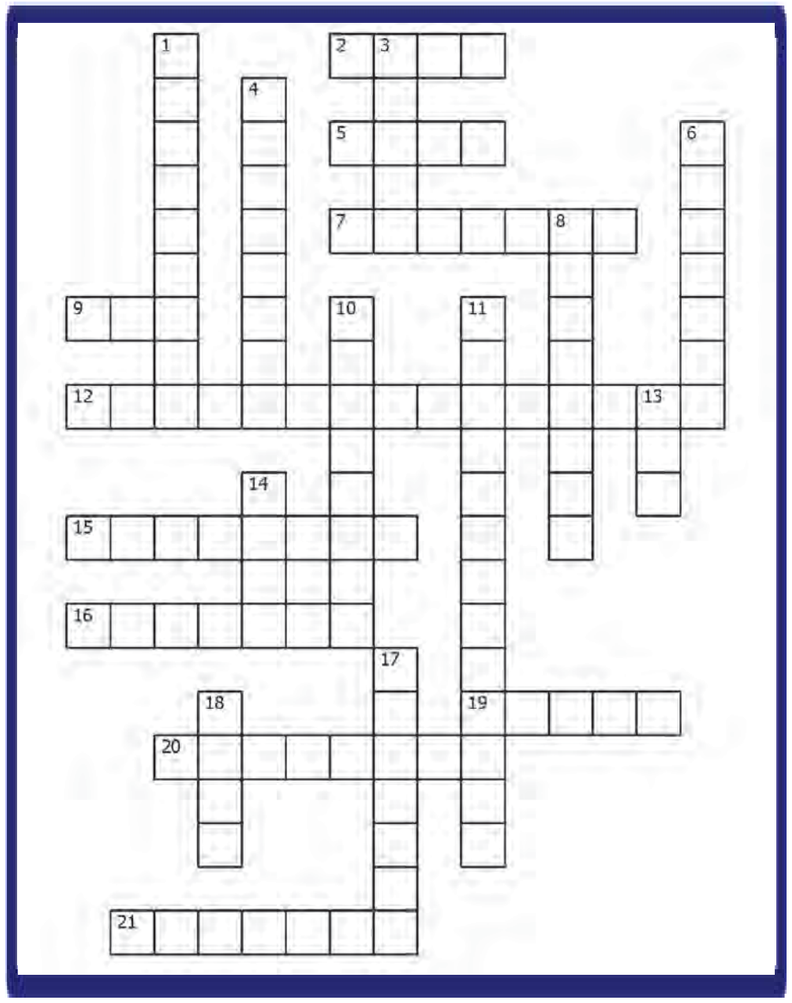
- sign the bill into law.
- amend the bill and return it to the General Assembly for its approval.
- veto the bill and return it to the General Assembly, where the House of Delegates and Senate may override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of both houses.
- take no action and the bill becomes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

6. Law

Bills that become law during a Regular Session are effective on July 1st, unless otherwise specified.



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 a 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 The 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 The number of states that border Virginia.
17 Represents citizens in the Senate.
18 A proposed idea presented to the legislature for consideration.

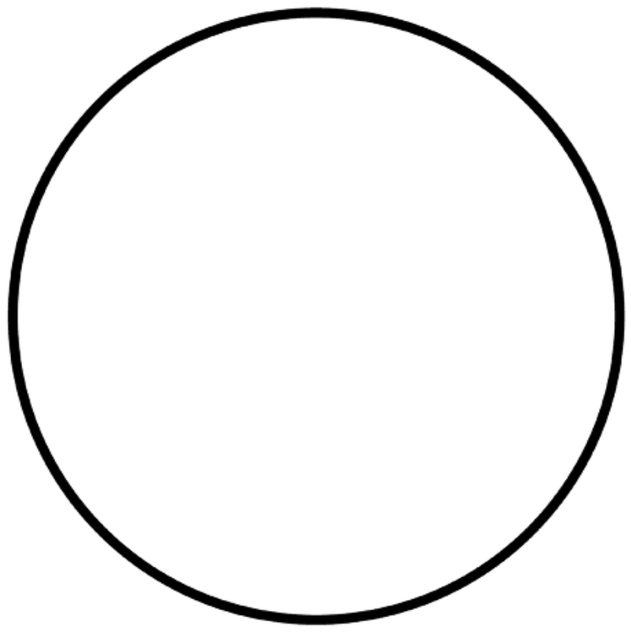
Legislators Have Full-Time Jobs

Virginia is governed by a part-time, citizen legislature. Virginia lawmakers must live in the district they represent. The state legislature is in session 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 the various types of work that Virginia's 100 Delegates may 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

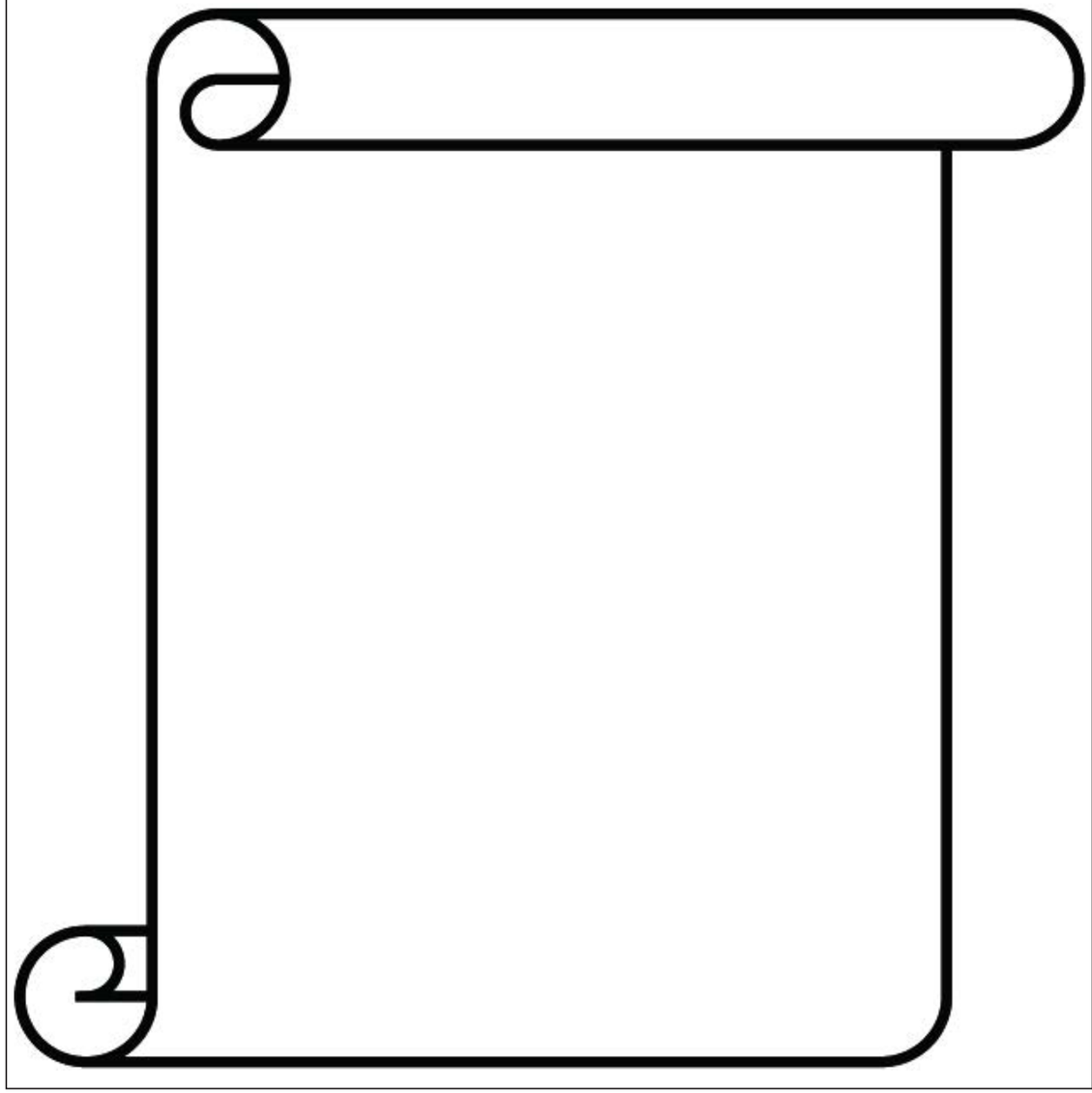
Using the circle below, create a pie graph that shows the breakdown of the job fields of Virginia's 100 Delegates.



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.



Founding Fathers

Using the word bank, find my name and fill in the blank.
(Names may be used twice.)

Patrick Henry
James Monroe
George Wythe
Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
George Washington



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 was also 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 U.S. at The College of William and Mary from 1779-1789.
Who am I? _____

5. I was the first President of the United States. Some 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 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 Women's Monument

Use numbers 1 through 7 to match these Virginia Women to their corresponding description.



1) Laura S. Copenhaver



2) Elizabeth Keckly



3) Mary Draper Ingles



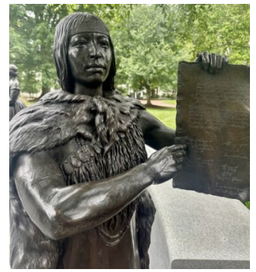
4) Martha Washington



5) Clementina Rind



6) Sarah G. Jones



7) Cockacoeske

_____ The first African American woman to pass the Virginia Medical Examining Board's examination.

_____ This Virginia woman became the leader of the Pamunkey tribe and reluctantly agreed to provide a dozen warriors to help defend the colony of Jamestown against frontier tribes.

_____ When her husband was elected president, this Virginia woman knew that her behavior would set the precedent for the wives of the country's future chief executives.

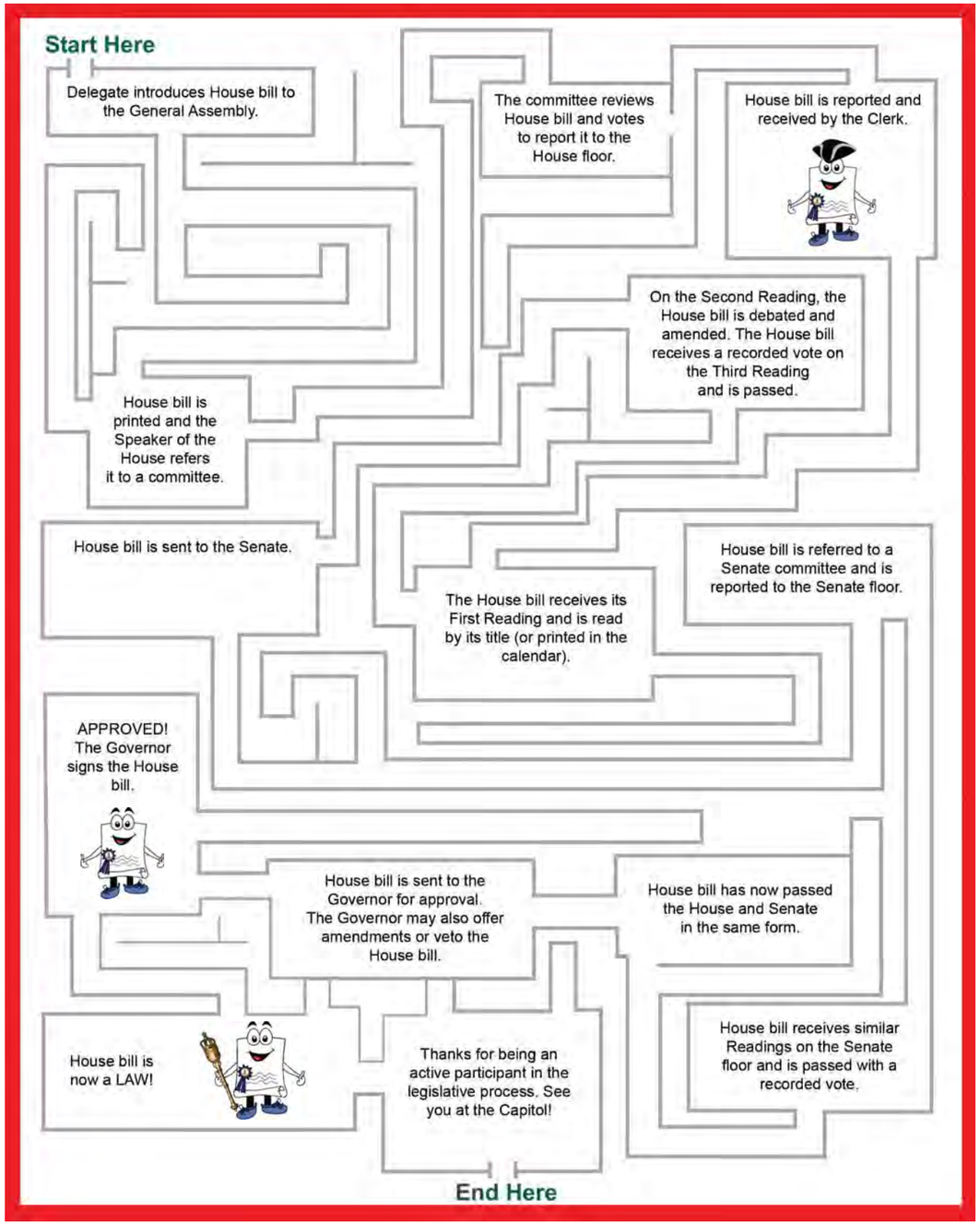
_____ As Director of information for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, her popular textiles attracted customers from throughout the United States and from Asia, Europe, and South America.

_____ The first woman printer in Virginia, and a notable colonial Virginia businesswoman.

_____ Born enslaved in Dinwiddie County, this Virginia woman and her son were freed in 1855. She later helped establish the Contraband Relief Association to provide assistance for Black refugees.

_____ Known as a frontier legend, this woman was taken captive with her two sons and sister-in-law during a July 30, 1755 attack. The October after her capture, she escaped and traveled hundreds of miles across mountains and valleys.

A-MAZE-ing Law



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



Virginia Word Search

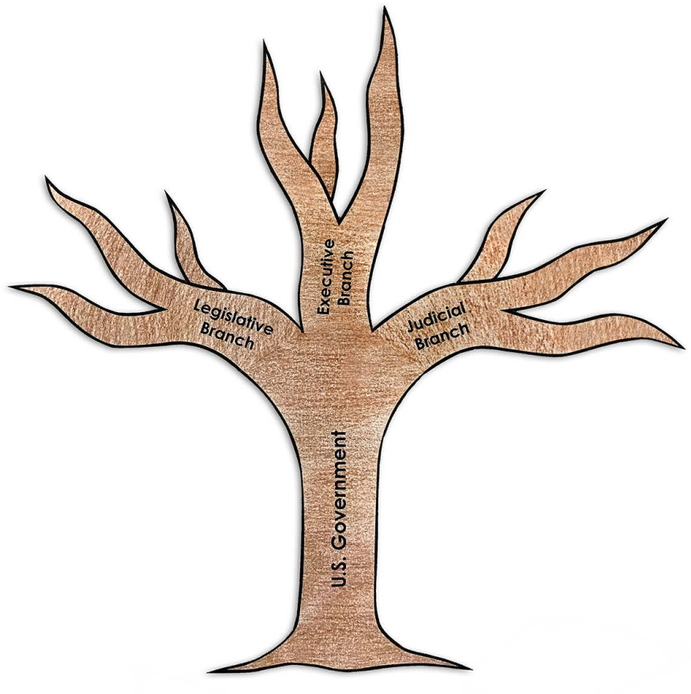
U R I O A X F W P U Z F E O N D C J C N
A C S E M H G S E I P C Y N C J L L D S
B O R J I W H I W N N F A X A S E E T D
J I R Q D E C N S U R J T M D S R G A P
V E N L C M O N R O E A P K E O K I Y U
E S M H R E Y F K E N M S P H N N S L Z
I L T D Q R S F M X E E C S S I D L O R
N O M H W S S L V E R 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
AMEND
BILL
BURGESSES
CAPITAL
CARDINAL
CITIZEN
CLERK
COMMITTEE
CONVENE
DELEGATE
DOGWOOD
EASTERN SHORE
EXECUTIVE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT
JAMES RIVER
JAMESTOWN
JEFFERSON
JUDICIAL
KING JAMES
LEGISLATIVE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
MADISON
MONROE
RICHMOND
SENATOR
SPEAKER
TAYLOR
VETO
VIRGINIA
VOTE
WASHINGTON

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.

____ tries civil and criminal cases
____ prepares the budget
____ executes laws of Virginia
____ confirms cabinet officers
____ elect judges
____ interprets the laws
____ has power of judicial review
____ makes laws
____ grants pardons
____ approves the budget
____ levy taxes



Regions of Virginia

Use the color key to label the regions of Virginia.

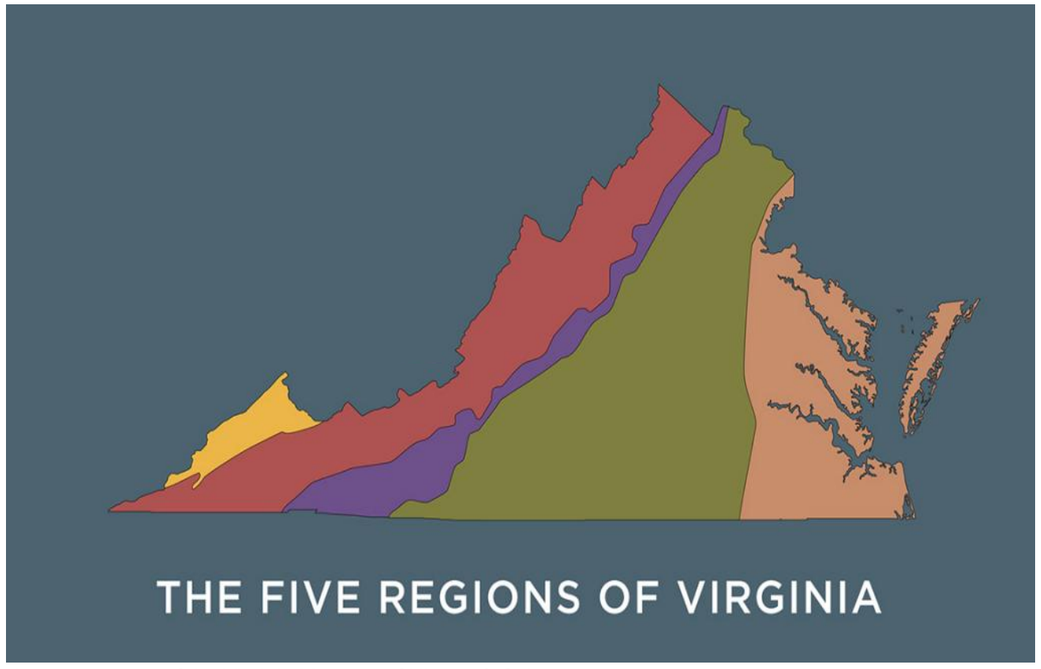


Image courtesy of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

_____ Coastal Plain/Tidewater

_____ Piedmont Region

_____ Blue Ridge Mountains

_____ Valley and Ridge

_____ Appalachian Plateau

COLOR KEY

Orange | Red | Purple | Yellow | Green

Test Your Civics Knowledge



Respond to the following questions.

1) I discuss my views on current issues with friends and members of my family. Identify at least one issue you have recently debated or discussed:

2) I try to understand points of view that are different from my own.
Give an example of at least one issue for which you have tried to listen to views from “the other side:”

3) I can identify my representatives in the state legislature.
Name your state Senator and Delegate:

4) I can identify at least one major state issue currently being debated in the state government.
Name the state issue:

5) I can identify my representatives in the U.S. Congress.
Name your Senator and Representative:

Grade Yourself!
If you answered yes to...
7-8: Excellent!
5-6: Very Good
3-4: Good
1-2: I need to look into this more.

6) I can identify at least one major local issue currently being debated by local government officials.
Name the local issue:

7) I am involved in a community service or volunteer activity.
Name or describe the activity:

8) When I become eligible, I plan to register and vote.
Give at least two reasons why it is important to be an informed voter:

Symbols and Emblems



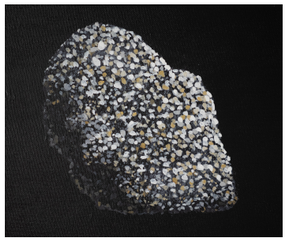
BAT-
Virginia Big-Eared Bat



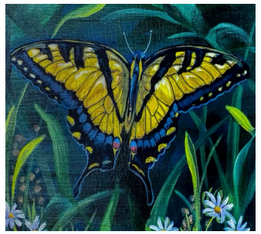
SALAMANDER-
Red Salamander



FLEET-
Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery



ROCK-
Nelsonite



INSECT-
Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly



SHELL-
Oyster Shell



FISH (SALTWATER) -
Striped Bass



FISH (FRESHWATER)-
Brook Trout



FOLK DANCE-
Square Dancing



BEVERAGE-
Milk



PONY-
Chincoteague Pony



FOSSIL-
Chesapecten jeffersonius



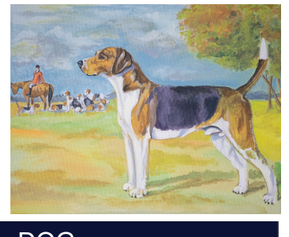
SNAKE-
Eastern Garter Snake



FLOWER-
American Dogwood



BIRD-
Northern Cardinal



DOG-
American Foxhound

Become a Legislator

Virginia needs future legislative leaders! Remember you must be at least 21 years old to run for office. So although you may be too young now, it is never too early to plan your campaign! That means telling as many people as possible about yourself and your ideas. Campaign buttons are a popular way of getting your name known to voters. Below are some samples to color. You may also use the two blank circles to make your own and then hold an "election" in your classroom. Everyone gets to vote for one senator and one delegate. Good luck!

