Virginia State History
Lapbook Journal

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Designed for 6th-12th Grades, but could be adjusted for younger grade levels.
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Thanks for purchasing this product. Please check out our Lapbook Journals for other states. The Lapbook Journals are designed for 6th-12th grades but could be adjusted for use with younger students.

Please also check out our Lapbooks for each state, and these are designed for K-8th grades.

We are designing these products, Lapbook Journals and Lapbooks, so that they follow the same Study Guide. This will allow for a family to study State History TOGETHER, with each age group using the product (Lapbook Journal or Lapbook) that best suits that group. The parent may teach from ONE Study Guide and allow each student to document what he is learning in his own way.
How to Use This Product:

1. **Supplies:** Gather the following supplies: 3-ring binder (2 inches), scissors, white paper, colored paper, light colored cardstock, glue, staples & stapler, ribbon, hole punch, metal brad fasteners (optional), and crayons or colored pencils. (If you purchased the printed format of this product, then you will need all of the listed supplies except the paper.)

2. **Brochures/Pamphlets:** Contact a Chamber of Commerce or travel agent within your state, and request brochures and pamphlets. Place a pocket inside your binder, and keep your brochures and pamphlets there. During your study, you may refer to these to help with answering the questions. You may also choose to cut out some of the words or pictures from them and decorate the pages of your notebook.

3. **Study Guide:** This guide contains an overview of this state’s history. Websites where you can find additional information are included on the last page of the Study Guide.

4. **Journal Pages:** These pages contain many questions that you will need to answer during your study of this state’s history. There are 2 blank pages at the end of this section, and these are for your State Report. This will be a short essay that tells a brief overview of what you have learned during your study. You may add pages, as needed.

5. **Lapbook Pages:** This is where you will create 6 booklets that further document what you have learned during your study. If you enjoy hand-on projects, you may complete these and glue them on the last 2 pages of this section. If you choose not to complete these booklets, then we suggest that you make sure to cover the requested information in your State Report in the previous section.
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The following pages contain the Study Guide

Print on white paper.
Virginia was named to honor Queen Elizabeth of England often referred to as the "Virgin Queen."

People who live in Virginia or who come from Virginia are called Virginians.

**STATEHOOD**

On June 25, 1788, Virginia became the 10th state to be admitted into the Union.

**COMMONWEALTH**

You will often hear Virginia called the Commonwealth of Virginia. This doesn't mean Virginia has a different form of government than any other state. "Commonwealth" is defined by Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as a political unit or government

(1) "founded on law and united by compactor tacit agreement of the people for the common good," or
(2) "one in which supreme authority is vested in the people."
Using these definitions, it could be said that all 50 states, as well as our national government, are common-wealth's. Besides Virginia, three other states - Kentucky, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania - use the term common-wealth as part of their official names.

The first use of commonwealth in Virginia was early in its history. One reason given by Governor George Yeardley for authorizing the first General Assembly meeting at James-town in 1619 was "for the better establishing of a commonwealth here." From 1649 to 1660, England and Virginia did not have a king. Instead, the Puritans ruled under a Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell. The government was called the Commonwealth of England. This commonwealth ended when King Charles II reclaimed the throne in 1660.

In Colonial times, Virginia was officially known as the Colony and Dominion of Virginia. When the 13 colonies broke ties with the British Crown during the Revolution, the old name was no longer suitable. The delegates to the convention in Williamsburg, when the first Constitution of Virginia was adopted on June 29, 1776, used common-wealth as the name for the new form of government. It is very likely they had in mind the Puritans' rebellion against the Crown in England more than 100 years earlier. Pennsylvania and Massachusetts also chose to be called commonwealths after independence from Great Britain. The other 10 former colonies took the name "state," the term used in the Declaration of Independence. Kentucky was once part of Virginia. When Kentuckians joined the Union as the 15th state in 1792, it kept the name commonwealth.

There are several other uses of the word "commonwealth" in the world today. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is not a state, but a territory. In this case, commonwealth refers to the free association with the United States chosen by the Puerto Rican people. The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of Great Britain and about 50 countries that were once part of the British Empire. Some of these nations, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Bahamas, Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, still recognize the British monarch as their official head of state. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia and other former Soviet republics formed the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance set up to handle certain matters of mutual interest among these newly independent countries.

**STATE CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia is the document that establishes and describes the duties, powers, structure and function of state government and the basic rights of the citizens of the U.S. Commonwealth of Virginia. Like all other state constitutions, it is supreme over Virginia's laws and acts of government, though it may be superseded by the United States Constitution and U.S. federal law.

The original Virginia Constitution of 1776 was enacted in conjunction with the Declaration of Independence by the first thirteen states of the United States of America. Virginia was the first state to adopt its own constitution. There have been six major revisions to the Virginia Constitution, in 1830, 1851, 1864, 1870, 1902, and 1971. The 1971 revised Virginia Constitution is currently in effect. These new constitutions have been part of, and in reaction to, periods of major regional, racial or social upheaval in Virginia.
STATE GOVERNMENT

The Virginia state government is made up of three separate branches of state government – Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch and is regulated by the Virginia State Constitution.

The Executive branch of government has sole authority and responsibility for the daily administration of the state bureaucracy. It is not supposed to make laws (the role of the legislature), or interpret them (the role of the judiciary). While the legislative and executive branches often work together on shaping proposed legislation, the role of the executive branch is to enforce the law as written by the legislature and interpreted by the judicial system.

As chief executive, the governor has extensive financial control, broad powers of appointment, and authority over the entire organization and administration of the executive branch. With ready access to the public, the governor has extensive opportunity to focus attention on operations or proposals and to influence public opinion.

The Legislative Branch is composed of the General Assembly and its supporting commissions and divisions. The General Assembly, officially the name of the State Legislature, dates from the establishment of the House of Burgesses at Jamestown in 1619. Now, the General Assembly is composed of a Senate and a House of Delegates which has the power to: levy taxes; enact laws not specifically prohibited by the state or federal constitution; confirm the Governor’s appointments of state agency heads and board members; approve the budget; elect State Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals, Circuit and District Court Judges and the members of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission; and elect the Auditor of Public Accounts, the commissioners of the State Corporation Commission, and members of the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission.

The General Assembly meets annually, beginning on the second Wednesday in January, for 60 days in even-numbered years and for 30 days in odd numbered years, with an option to extend the annual session for a maximum of 30 days. There are 40 Senators, who serve a term of four years. There are 100 Delegates, who serve a term of 2 years.

The aim of the Judicial Branch is to assure that disputes are resolved justly, promptly, and economically through a court system unified in its structures and administration.

This system is comprised of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court of Appeals of Virginia, circuit courts in thirty-one judicial circuits, general district and juvenile and domestic relations district courts in thirty-two districts, and magistrates in offices in thirty-two districts.

The administrative office of the courts, known in Virginia as the Office of the Executive Secretary, supports the administration of the court system under the direction of the Chief Justice and the Executive Secretary.
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms. Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the congressional delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of Virginia elect 2 people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and 11 people, based on Virginia’s current population, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

STATE SEAL

The great seal of the Commonwealth was adopted by the Virginia's Constitutional Convention on July 5, 1776. Its design was the work of a committee composed of George Mason, George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, and Robert Carter Nicholas. George Wythe was probably the principal designer taking its theme from ancient Roman mythology.

The original design was never properly cast and a number of variations came into use. Attempting to legislate uniformity, the General Assemblies of 1873 and 1903 passed acts describing the seal in detail. In 1930, a committee was named to prepare an "accurate and faithful description of the great seal of the Commonwealth, as it was intended to be by Mason and Wythe and their associates." The committee set forth the official design in use today, which is essentially the design adopted by the Virginia's Constitutional Convention of 1776.

The obverse side of the great seal depicts the Roman goddess Virtus representing the spirit of the Commonwealth. She is dressed as an Amazon, a sheathed sword in one hand, and a spear in the
other, and one foot on the form of Tyranny, who is pictured with a broken chain in his left hand, a scourge in his right, and his fallen crown nearby, implying struggle that has ended in complete victory. Virginia's motto, Sic Semper Tyrannis (Latin for "Thus Always to Tyrants"), appears at the bottom.

On the reverse side of the seal are the three Roman goddesses, Libertas (Liberty) in the center holding a wand and pileus in her right hand, Aerternitas (Eternity) with a globe and phoenix in her right hand, and Ceres (Fruitfulness) with a cornucopia in her left hand and an ear of wheat in her right. At the top is the word Perservando (Latin for "by Persevering"). A border of Virginia creeper encircles the designs on each side.

Official colors were established by the Art Commission in 1949 and a water color, the only official model for flag makers and stationers, hangs in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is designated by the Code of Virginia as the keeper of the great seal. The great seal of the Commonwealth is affixed to documents signed by the governor and intended for use before tribunals and for purposes outside the jurisdiction of Virginia.

**STATE CAPITAL (Richmond, Virginia)**

The Virginia Capitol is a living landmark to American self-government. Since 1788, it has been home to the General Assembly, the oldest legislature continuously operating in the Western Hemisphere. Designed by Thomas Jefferson, the Capitol was the first public building in the New World constructed in the Monumental Classical style; it has served as a prototype for countless capitols, courthouses, municipal buildings, and even churches and residences for more than 200 years.

For detailed information about the state capitol buildings, present and past, visit: http://www.virgiaciapitol.gov/index.php?p=time

**STATE MOTTO**

*Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Latin)

Thus Always to Tyrants (English translation)

Virginia's state motto was adopted as an element of its official seal. The Virginia State Motto, adopted in 1776, appears on the State Seal, symbolizing victory over tyranny.
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The following pages contain the Journal Pages

Print on white paper.
Label the capital city, major cities, and major bodies of water.
Virginia

When did this state become a state? ___________
Rank in statehood: ________

Capital city & its population: ___________

Northern border: _______________________
Southern border: _______________________
Eastern border: _______________________
Western border: _______________________

Total area: ___________
State’s rank in size (area): ___________

State’s total population: _________________
City with largest population: _______________
State’s rank in population: _________________

State’s total area: _______________________
State’s rank in size (area): _______________
State Flag

Draw the state flag above.

State Flag Information:

When adopted: _____________________________

Colors: _________________________________

Specific design: __________________________

History: _________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Virginia
State Symbols

State Flower
Draw the state flower above.

State Tree
Draw the state tree above.

Virginia
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The following pages contain the Lapbook Pages
On the pages in this section, you will find:

1. **Pictures of completed Lapbook Page:** This is just a SAMPLE (The one in the picture is for Alabama, but each state will have the same booklets).
2. **Lapbook Booklet Instructions:** This is where you will find instructions for cutting out, assembling, and completing each booklet.
3. **Lapbook Booklet Templates:** Each booklet will be labeled so that you can easily find them when reading through the Lapbook Booklet Instructions. Print these on colored paper.
4. **Lapbook Background Pages** – This is where you will glue each of your Lapbook Booklets. We suggest printing this page on white or another light color of cardstock.
This is a SAMPLE of completed Lapbook Pages. You may choose to arrange your booklets differently. Be creative!
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Lapbook Pages

Booklet #1: State History

Assembly Instructions: Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Stack the pages so that the title is on top and the pages get longer toward the back of the stack. Along the top of the stack, secure with staples. You may choose to cover the stapled area with a ribbon like in the picture. Instead of staples, you may choose to punch 2 holes and secure with metal brad fasteners or tie a ribbon.

Completion Instructions: During your study of this state, you have learned about many different aspects of the state’s history. Inside this booklet, tell what you remember from your study. You may choose to also draw/glue pictures in this booklet. Notice how each page is a little longer than the one before. This creates “tabs” on the bottom of each page. Use this space (bottom of each page) to write the subject of what you will tell about on each page. For example, you may want to label one page “War” or “Constitution” or whatever you choose.

Booklet #2: State Brochure

Assembly Instructions: Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Tri-fold this booklet so that the title is on the front.

Completion Instructions: There are so many wonderful places to visit and facts to know about each state. Pretend that you are creating a travel brochure that would be seen by people who were considering visiting this state. Inside (and on the outside) this booklet, tell about all of the reasons that someone should visit. You may choose to draw and/or glue pictures also.
Welcome to Virginia