

Postcards from Past to Present

Snapshots of Virginia's Regions, then and now....



Introduction:

Have you been outside of your county to see the rest of your state? Most students haven't. This project gives students the opportunity to expand their horizons and go where they've never gone before. This unit is designed to give 4th grade students a pictorial view of Virginia's past and present. Many of our Virginia students haven't experienced a trek across Virginia's five regions. To bring the state a little closer, students will create postcards from Virginia's five regions. The pictures will be a representation of what the regions looked like prior to settlement and present day.



The Process:

Pretend you are living in the 1600's in Virginia. You are equipped with the best camera money can buy and you are ready to start traveling throughout each region clicking as you go. You will need at least one or two good pictures from each region representing the past. Next, you will get into your time machine and come back to present day. Take that same trip with the same camera and again, take one or two pictures from each of Virginia's regions.

When you have your pictures collected, you will make a postcard showing where you have pretended to traveled in Virginia from the past to the present. What do you want your classmates and teacher to see? Gather lots of pictures and please follow the guidelines.



Your Postcards must include the following:

- At least 2 pictures from a place of interest in each of Virginia's regions. The postcard must illustrate a before and after picture.
- A narrative describing the importance of the designation you selected
- A brief summary of each region on change. How has the change affected the area?'

The Task:

Working independently in the computer lab, you are to collect images using the Internet. You may either go directly to a [Google](#) image search, or go to a website that has images on it. From the information you collect, you will search, sort, create and communicate your findings to the class in the form of a postcard. You must have 5 postcards from each region. Each postcard must have a before and after picture illustrated on the card. There are many sites available to help, and many are listed below.

Photograph Resources:

[Bath County](#): Do you know what region Bath county is in? There are some neat pictures of past and present on this site.

[Virginia's People, Past and Present](#): This site is full of information of the history of Virginia, from its people to the land. There are some maps, pictures and most importantly, lots of information to use for your scrapbook.

[Virginia Historical Society](#): This site tells the story of Virginia's history from Native Americans, through the Civil War, Walton's Mountain to Virginians today. If you can't find what you want here, I'll be very surprised!

[Class Brain - Virginia](#): I found some great pictures here but you need to look through each link.

Example: Tidewater Region Postcard



Virginia's Capitol Building has not only changed locations three times, but the building itself has undergone a few changes as well. Pictured is the first Capitol building located in Williamsburg and to the right, the Capitol as it is today, in Richmond.

Objectives:

Virginia Studies

VS.2 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the geography and early inhabitants of Virginia by

- d) locating three American Indian (First American) language groups (the Algonquian, the Siouan, and the Iroquoian) on a map of Virginia;
- e) describing how American Indians (First Americans) adapted to the climate and their environment to secure food, clothing, and shelter.

VS.3 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by

- g) describing the interactions between the English settlers and the Powhatan people, including the contributions of the Powhatans to the survival of the settlers.

VS.4 The student will demonstrate knowledge of life in the Virginia colony by

- b) describing how European (English, Scotch-Irish, German) immigrants, Africans, and American Indians (First Americans) influenced the cultural landscape and changed the relationship between the Virginia colony and England;

In addition to our History objectives, this report covers the following Language Arts objectives as well.

The student will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of literary forms.

- * Use text organizers such as type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information in informational texts.

- * Locate information to support opinions, predictions, and conclusions.

- * Identify cause-and-effect relationships.

- * Prioritize information according to purpose of reading.

- * Write about what is read.

- * The student will synthesize information from a variety of resources.

Skim materials to develop a general overview of content or to locate specific information.

Develop notes that include important concepts, paraphrases, summaries, and identification of information sources.

- * Organize and record information on charts, maps, and graphs.

- * Use available electronic databases to access information.

- * Credit secondary reference sources.

- * The student will write for a variety of purposes to describe, to inform, to entertain, and to explain.

- * Choose planning strategies for various writing purposes.

- * Organize information.

- * Use vocabulary effectively.

- * Vary sentence structure.

- * Revise writing for clarity.

- * **Edit final copies for grammar, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation, especially the use of possessives and quotation marks**