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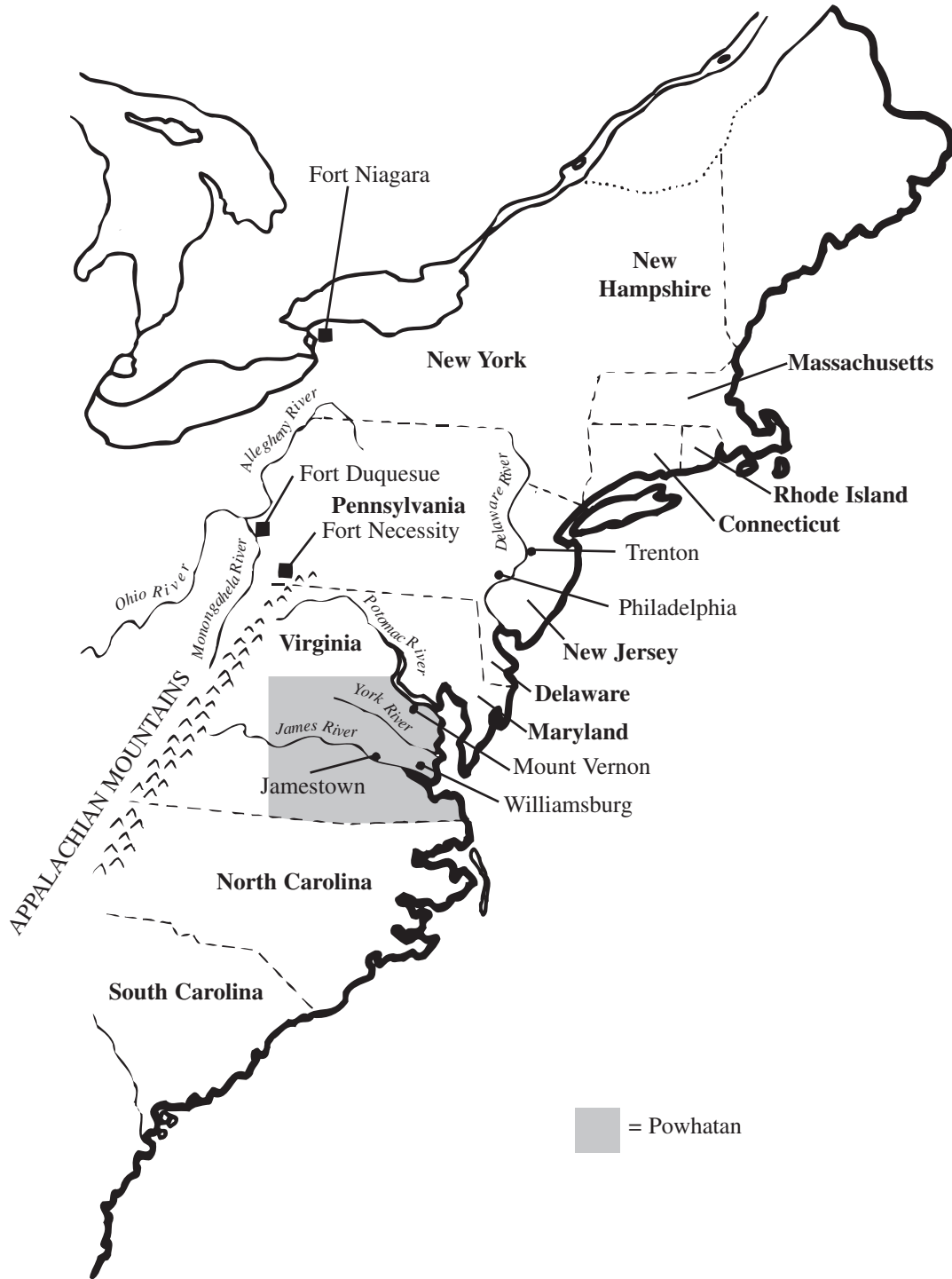
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# Colonial Virginia Map



# Colonial Virginia Map Questions

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Look at the map on the preceding page and answer the following questions. You may write your answers on this page unless otherwise directed by your teacher.

1. When the British founded Jamestown, roughly what fraction of Virginia's land between the ocean and the mountains did the Powhatan natives control? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Bacon's Rebellion began with the resentment of the frontiersmen against Governor Berkeley in Jamestown. What geographical feature probably divided the frontier from the more settled areas of Virginia at that time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When Washington was a member of the Virginia militia in \_\_\_\_\_, he took a message to the French commander near Lake Erie before the French and Indian War. What two colonies would he have traveled through as he went from Virginia to get to Fort Niagara? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What major geographical barrier did Washington have to cross in order to get to Fort Duquesne (the present-day site of Pittsburgh) to confront the French in the Ohio Valley?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What geographical features made it important for the French to continue to occupy Fort Duquesne? Why were these geographical features so important? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which direction did Washington travel when he left his home at Mount Vernon to attend sessions of the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, the capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1779?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. A famous painting about the Revolutionary War shows George Washington crossing the Delaware River on the way to his victory at Trenton, New Jersey. Which direction would George Washington have traveled to reach Trenton? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Philadelphia was one of the two capital cities of the United States before Washington, D.C., was built. a. Philadelphia is located on what river? b. Philadelphia is located in what state?  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Chief Powhatan & the Powhatan Indians<sup>1</sup>

Carefully read the following text in preparation for the activity at the end of the reading.

When the British settled at Jamestown in 1607, they were invading an empire, whether they realized it or not. In 1607, Chief Powhatan exterminated the Chesapeakes around what is now Virginia Beach; and by 1608, when Captain John Smith explored Chesapeake Bay, all of the natives of eastern Virginia except the Chickahominy were under Chief Powhatan's rule.

"Powhatan" was the name of a group of about 30 chiefdoms in eastern Virginia, the name of the language these people spoke, the name of a town near the falls of the James River and the name that Wahunsunacock took when he inherited leadership of the Powhatans. Chief Powhatan was not a king in the sense that the British understood, but a chief who ruled over many local chiefs. He had inherited six chiefdoms along what are now known as the James and York Rivers. Then he conquered other tribes or bullied them into submitting to his rule so that, when the British arrived, he presided over about 30 tribes.

Powhatan's power over his subjects was not absolute. He had to listen to the advice of his council, which was made up of both priests and warriors. Neither Powhatan nor his council could pass laws that changed the daily life of the ordinary people to any great extent.



*Chief Powhatan*

Finally, the chief had the power of life and death only in limited circumstances. Local chiefs remained important to their own tribes, but Powhatan maintained his control over them by appointing various relatives as viceroys in major towns. The tribal chiefs presided over ceremonial events including great feasts, manhood initiation rites for the boys, the celebration of the ripening of the corn crop and some private religious rituals. Their legal and political powers extended to the execution of criminals and the decision whether or not to make war on their enemies.

On the whole, chiefs worked and lived the same way their people did. Although chiefs partly supported themselves with gifts from their subjects such as corn and deerskins, they also farmed and made items their families needed. Captain John Smith, in his account of his adventure with Pocahontas, remarked on Chief Powhatan making things with his own hands. People, including the chiefs, did not specialize in any one occupation. All of the men fished, hunted and fought the tribe's enemies. The women farmed, gathered food that grew wild, prepared meals, made household utensils and probably even built their houses. Both men and women raised the children. Everyone contributed to his or her own welfare and that of the tribe.

<sup>1</sup> *Encyclopedia of North American Indians* edited by Frederick E. Hoxie, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996.

*America's Fascinating Indian Heritage* edited by James A. Maxwell, Pleasantville, New York, The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1978.