Indians of Virginia (Pre-1600 With Notes on Historic Tribes)

Virginia History Series
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Hunters Reach the Americas

- Glaciers
- Land bridge
- Migration routes

- 1000 B.P.
- 10,000 B.P.
- 11,000 B.P.

Early Archaic
Horned Points
Early Sln-Neched

Late Paleoindian
Simpson
Cleats

Middle Paleoindian
Beaver Lake
Quad

Earliest Paleoindian
Clewiston
Clovis

Flood Datum
Stefan

- 10,000 B.P.
- 11,000 B.P.
- 12,000 B.P.

North America
SOUTH AMERICA
ASIA
PACIFIC OCEAN
Pre-Historic Times in 3 Periods (14,000 B.P.- 1,600 A.D.):

**Paleoindian**
- Pre-Clovis (14,000 BP – 9,500 B.C.)
- Clovis (9,500 – 8,000 B.C.)

**Archaic**
- Early (8,000 -6,000 B.C.)
- Middle (6,000 – 2,500 B.C.)
- Late (2,500 – 1,200 B.C.)

**Woodland**
- Early (1,200 – 500 B.C.)
- Middle (500 B.C. – 900 A.D.)
- Late (900 – 1,600 A.D.)

Mississippian Culture (Influence of)

Tribes of Virginia
Alternate Hypotheses about Pre-historic Migration Routes taken by Paleo-Indians from Asia or Europe into North America: (1) *From Asia* by Water along the Northern Pacific or across the land bridge from Asia thru Alaska/Canada; or (2) *From Europe* on the edge of the ice pack along the North Atlantic Coast to the Temperate Lands below the Laurentide Ice Sheet.
Coming to America (The “Land Bridge” Hypothesis from Asia to North America thru Alaska)
Migrations into North and Central America from Asia via Alaska
The “Solutrean” Hypothesis of Pre-historic Migration into North America

The Solutrean hypothesis claims similarities between the **Solutrean point-making industry in France** and the later **Clovis culture / Clovis points of North America**, and suggests that people with Solutrean tool technology may have crossed the Ice Age Atlantic by moving along the pack ice edge, using survival skills similar to that of modern Eskimo people. The migrants arrived in northeastern North America and served as the donor culture for what eventually developed into Clovis tool-making technology. Sites such as **Cactus Hill, Virginia** have yielded artifacts which appear to bridge the temporal and technological gap between Solutrean and Clovis cultures.

Paleo-indian point forms: (from the left) the 2nd is a Cumberland point, the 3rd is a **Clovis point**, the 4th a Barnes point, and the 5th a Folsom point. These flaked-stone tools are important archaeological markers of early North American cultures.
Pre-Historic Indian Spear Points from Solutre, France (i.e., Solutrean); Cactus Hill, VA; and Clovis, NM
Paleolithic art sites in Europe

Horse drawn on wall at Lascaux Cave in Southern France
Map from Rodney M. Peck's *Eastern Fluted Points* (1998)
Pre-Clovis Period (14,000 B.P. – 9,500 B.C.)

Archaeological evidence found at several Eastern sites challenge the previously accepted notion that the earliest human presence in North America was at Clovis, NM about 11,500 yr B.P. (i.e., “Clovis First”).

The finds at Saltville and Cactus Hill in Virginia have been dated to 14,510 B.P. which is about 3,000 years older than the man-made spear points found at Clovis, NM.

Selected Pre-Clovis Sites in the Mid-Atlantic and SE USA (McDonald)
Pre-Clovis at the Cactus Hill Site [44SX202] (45 mi So. Of Richmond, VA)

[Site below; stone tools found at right; artist’s conception of the native environment – below rt]
Pre-Clovis at Saltville, Virginia [44SM37]

Saltville Valley is an important source of information about the environmental history of the Middle Appalachian region, especially for the past thousands of years.

The Saltville River ran thru the valley until about 13,500-13,000 yrs BP, at which time it was diverted by headstream piracy and replaced in Saltville Valley by Lake Totten.

At Saltville, three horizons dating from 14,510 +/- 80 yr BP to about 13,500-13,000 yr BP document the presence of pre-Clovis people in Saltville Valley and provide insight into their life-ways.
Pre-Clovis “Bone Tool” ca. 14,520 years B.P. from Saltville, Virginia (Site SV-2)

Diagram of generalized tool showing parts (above); “Bone tool” (right) with picture of blade edge above showing striations probably made by abrasive contact with animal tissue. (Circular incision in blade was made where bone samples were taken for radiometric dating.) [McDonald]
The pre-Clovis people at Saltville appear to have butchered and processed hide, meat, bones, and tusks of a mastodon and to have utilized parts of the skeleton of a musk ox. Five hundred years later, at 13,950 +/- 70 yr BP, human presence is suggested by unlikely arrangements, associations, and modifications of lithics, including flakes of chert that resemble bio-face reduction flakes.

This Saltville site is one of the few and most complex pre-Clovis archeological sites in North America. Evidence suggests that the pre-Clovis people who visited Saltville Valley in 14,510 yr BP had a diversified ivory, bone, and lithic technology--possibly including a biface technology. These people appear to have been mobile hunters and gatherers who regularly visited and exploited the riparian and littoral zones in Saltville Valley where they utilized diverse animal resources ranging from large mammals to small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mussels.
Clovis Period in the Eastern Woodlands
(9,500-8,000 B.C.)

There is evidence of native American hunters in Virginia’s woodlands for thousands of years.

Flint Run Complex in the Northern Shenandoah Valley (i.e., a “stone tool making” site) including: a Jasper Quarry on Flint Run; Lockhart and Gooney Run Sites for stone reduction; the Thunderbird Paleoindian Site used as a base camp; and several maintenance sites – e.g., the Fifty Site). All these sites are in Warren Co., VA

Williamson “Workshop” Site in Dinwiddie Co., VA and the nearby Isle of Wight “Camp” Site (i.e., both in SE Virginia)
Flint Run Complex in the Northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia

This is a group of Clovis sites clustered around a jasper outcrop near the South Fork of the Shenandoah river in the Northern Shenandoah valley of Virginia accounting for between 500 to 1,000 people at circa 8,300 BC. Site types include habitations and stone tool workshops.
Flint Run Complex: Jasper Quarry (Consists mainly of large blocky pieces of Jasper, some shaped into crude bifaces, and debitage.)

Four types of jasper (above); and, a Paleolithic jasper knife (right)
Flint Run Complex:
Lockhart and Gooney Run Sites

These sites contain mostly further reduced and shaped bifaces that are still, however, mainly in the early stages of reduction, as is evident in the common occurrence of primary flakes.

Tools are rare at both sites.

Complex Geography

The Shenandoah River cuts through the center of the site complex. The Jasper outcrop is on the South side of the river. The Thunderbird base camp is located on the North side of the river. The Reduction Stations (i.e., Lockhart and Gooney Run) are close to the quarry but adjacent to the nearest available water. All sites are underlain by limestone.

The distance from Thunderbird to Lockart is about 500 ft, and from Lockhart to the Jasper outcrops is about 100 ft. The total area for all known sites is not more than 0.25 mi x 2 mi making the area included in the complex about 0.5 sq miles.
Flint Run Complex: Thunderbird Site

This was a “base camp” containing preliminarily shaped and transported bifaces and cores to nearly finished and finished late-stage bifaces, preforms and broken unused points, and discarded, extensively curated points of nonlocal materials.

Artist’s reconstruction of activity at the Thunderbird site (i.e., men chipping new stone tools sit by the river’s edge. (Garnder)
Flint Run Complex: Fifty Site (Maintenance)

The site is situated adjacent to an old alluvial fan above the river bottom on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River in the Valley of Northern Virginia. At the time of occupation, the site overlooked an abandoned channel of the South Fork.

Two activities were identified at Fifty: (1) making large and small Jasper flake tools for scraping; and, (2) making points, small knife-like bifaces, large bifaces, and end scrapers.

(Above Right) flake scraper and anvil stone; (Below Right) red Jasper lithics from VA [Chris Eckard]
Williamson “Workshop” Site, Quail Springs Site, and the Isle of Wight “Camp” Site in SE Virginia [Rodney M. Peck]
The Williamson Site Lithic Material Chart

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<th>Lithic Material</th>
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<th>Artifact</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>Fluted Points (Whole &amp; Broken)</td>
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Survey taken from 7 Collections and the "Virginia Fluted Point Survey" and accounts for approximately 90% of recovered artifacts. Percentage are approximated to .1%

Figure 1: Eastern Clovis points from the Williamson Site, Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

Eastern Clovis Points from the Williamson Site, Dinwiddie Co., VA (Peck 1998)
How Paleoindians Made “Stone Tools”

“Hammerstone” from Chris Eckard

(Right) Projectile point making: (a) hammer-stoning general outline, (b) bone hammering shape of point, and (c) pressure-flaking point’s edge.
Making an Axe Head

Flakes are removed from the core of a lithic with a hammer stone or a bone/antler billet thereby shaping the lithic into a bi-facially worked axe.

[William M. Gardner – illustration at right from *Lost Arrowheads and Broken Pottery, 1986*]

(Above) Hafted Axe by Chris Eckard
Creating a Stone-age Axe Head – Animation by Chris Eckard
Using a Stone-age Scraper Tool – Animation by Chris Eckard
Early Hunters used an “Atlatl” to increase the throwing power of their spears. These devices had stone weights (circled) for balance and to get greater momentum into the spear.
Middle Archaic People used pestles and mortars (below) to grind nuts, seeds and corn into powder before cooking/eating.
Late Archaic (2,500 – 1,200 B.C.) People Were “Sedentary Foragers”
Soapstone

Originally what would become soapstone was an igneous rock. Later, it was metamorphosed to a rock which contains the mineral talc giving it its characteristic soapy feel.

Soapstone is so soft that it can be cut in pieces and then fashioned into various objects. It has excellent heat-retaining properties making it useful in the manufacture of cooking bowls.

It has been used as a dimension stone in the building industry. The largest soapstone quarries in the US are on the line between Albemarle & Nelson counties just West of Green Mount, VA.

Schuyler, VA was the center of a large soapstone industry earlier in the 20th century.
Late Archaic People Carved Bowls from Soapstone
Early Woodland (1,200 – 500 B.C.)
People Made Pottery from Clay.
(The example at right was probably decorated with the imprint of a woven fabric.)

Potomac Valley Indian Pottery with Fabric Impressions [Sams]
Middle Woodland (500 B.C. – 900 A.D.)

Beginnings of “Ranked Societies”
Late Woodland (900 – 1,600 A.D.) People Were Farmers and Lived in Permanent Villages (Houses Were Shared Longhouses or Single-Family Dome Shaped Structures)
Highly evolved Indian village of Secota (right) showing integration of buildings, gardens, crops, and common areas -- including ceremonial sites. Village of Pomeiooc (below) with palisade enclosure for security.
Cultural and Horticultural Development of Native Societies in Eastern US

**Culture and horticulture c. 1500 BC – AD 400**

- **Mound builders**
  - Adena, c. 700–100 BC
    - Cultural area
    - Burial mound
  - Hopewell, c. 100 BC – AD 400
    - Cultural area
    - Burial mound
    - Effigy mound
    - Area of maize growing
    - Site with maize
Mississippian Mound-builders (900-1450 AD)
MISSISSIPPIAN CULTURES
Influence of Mississippian Culture on Native Indians of Virginia

The Mississippian civilization is the name given by archaeologists to the pre-columbian horticulturalists of the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys, between about 1100-1450 A.D.

Mississippian-type mounds can be found in the immense area reaching from the modern American states of Ohio to Iowa and from Minnesota to Louisiana. The southern half of this huge area is called the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex, or Southern Cult because of the iconography on artifacts from the area; clearly, the two areas may be associated based on the similarity of mound construction, artifact assemblage and cultural features.

Within this vast area, people grew maize and beans, built extensive earthworks and flat-topped pyramids (called platform mounds), and traded raw materials like obsidian, copper and gulf coast marine shells. Most interestingly, the Mississippian also shared religious notions about the world and the way it worked.
Serpent Mound built in Southern Ohio by the Fort Ancient people of the Mississippian civilization between 1170 and 1270 A.D.

Moundville was a regional center of the Mississippian civilization, located on the Black Warrior River in the southeastern part of Alabama. It is one of the largest Mississippian complexes known, with a total of 29 earthen mounds, a central plaza, residential areas, thick middens, and cemeteries. The largest earthwork at Moundville is 56 feet high; and during its occupation, a stockade protected an area of over 200 acres.
Rose Hill Complex in Lee Co., VA

Often, temples, elite residences, and council buildings stood atop substructures or townhouse mounds such as the Ely Mound.

**Ely Mound (44LE12)**
The Ely mound site sits on a gentle slope near a small stream with the Cumberland Mountain appearing as a dramatic backdrop to the northwest. This mound was first excavated in 1877 and dates to the Late Woodland Period (ca 1,200-1,650 A.D.)

**Carter-Robinson Mound (44LE10)**
This is a mound and village site (a.k.a. Rose-Robinson). So far, "excavations revealed a village site with multiple structures present around the mound". Artifacts include: ceramics, shell and bone beads, pipe fragments, incised sandstone, ground-stone fragments, and pendants. These finds suggest a sizable village was present here.
Ely Mound was first excavated in 1877 by Lucien Carr of the Peabody Museum in Boston, MA.
Artifacts found at Ely Mound (from Lucien Carr’s Report to the Peabody Museum – 1880)

Round Stone above used in the Indian game of “Chunke”

Late Woodland Period (1,200 to 1,650 A.D.)

Shell Beads, Ely Mound, VA.; Natural size. Museum No. 9787.

Carved Shell, Ely Mound, VA.; Natural size. Museum No. 9796.

Shell Pin, Ely Mound, VA.; Natural size. Museum No. 9788.

Dagger, Chachenont, Ely Mound, VA.; Natural size. Museum No. 9712.
“Chunke” (or “Chungke”)

Chunke was an Indian game that consisted of a stone shaped disk that was about 1–2 inches in length. The disk was thrown down a 200-foot (61 m) corridor so that it could roll past the players at great speed. The disk would roll down the corridor, and players would throw wooden shafts at the moving disk. The object of the game was to strike the disk or prevent your opponents from hitting it.
Indian Mound off Route 15 and Foxfield Lane South of Leesburg, Virginia
Major Indian Paths for Communication and Commerce Thru Virginia by 1600

To PA and NY

To Ohio River Valley

To TN, Western NC & GA

To the Carolinas, Savannah River and GA

(Modified from a Virginia Geographic Alliance Map)
Indian Trading Paths and Goods
(map by H. H. Tanner in Powhatan’s Mantle)

Typical trade goods included:

- Salt,
- Copper,
- Marine Shell,
- Pottery,
- Animal Skins,
- Arrow/Spear Points,
- etc.
River-based Horticultural Chiefdoms in Southern & Eastern North America (brown areas)
Location of Indian Tribes in Virginia as of 1600
Indians at the Time of European Contact

Language Families
- Siouan
- Algonquian
- Iroquoian
- ?

Map showing the distribution of various language families in Virginia, including Manahoac, Monacan, Toteros, Saponis, Occaneechis, Nottoway, and Meherrin.
John Smith’s Map of Indian Contacts in VA (1624)
Recognized Indian Tribes of Virginia

8 Tribes Recognized by the State of Virginia as of May 2008:

- Chickahominy
- Eastern Chickahominy
- Mattaponi
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond
- Pamunkey
- Rappahannock
- Upper Mattaponi

Aerial View of the Werowocomoco Village Site on York River (Capitol of the Powhatan Chiefdom)
The Current Eight State-Recognized Tribes of Virginia

- Eastern Chickahominy Tribe
  - New Kent County

- Rappahannock Tribe
  - Essex, Caroline and King & Queen Counties

- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
  - King William County

- Pamunkey Reservation
  - King William County

- Monacan Nation
  - Amherst County

- Mattaponi Tribe
  - King William County

- Chickahominy Tribe
  - Charles City County

- Nansemond Tribe
  - City of Chesapeake
The Chickahominy are a tribe of Native Americans who primarily live in Charles City and New Kent counties in the Greater Richmond-Petersburg area of Virginia. They are now recognized by the State of Virginia as being 2 Tribes: Chickahominy and Eastern Chickahominy.

The Chickahominy were an autonomous tribe when the first permanent English settlement was founded at Jamestown in 1607. The Chickahominy were at times allied with Wahunsonacock, known to the English as Chief Powhatan, and his chiefdom of 30 or so tribes, finally joining his Powhatan Confederacy in 1616. The tribe's original territory consisted of the land along the river that was eventually named after them, the Chickahominy River.

The Chickahominy were forced to cede their land along the Chickahominy River in 1646, following the Anglo-Powhatan War of 1644-46. They resettled for a time farther north, alongside the Pamunkey tribe between the Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers. Here they stayed until 1661, then moving to the headwaters of the Mattaponi, where their reserved holdings continued to shrink.

They lost title to the last part of their reserve on the Mattaponi River in 1718, but apparently continued to live in the area for some time. Those who did not merge with the Pamunkey and other tribes, migrated to New Kent and Charles City Counties, closer to their original home, sometime before the end of the century; but, few records survive to document the exact date of this migration.
Eastern Chickahominy

Originally located along the Chickahominy River from the James River to NW of Henrico City – i.e., Richmond, VA.

John Smith meeting with Eastern Chickahominy Indians (above)

Chickahominy River
(Western) Chickahominy
Originally located along the Chickahominy River from NW of Henrico City (i.e., Richmond, VA) to its headwaters in central Virginia.

Present-day Chickahominy Tribal Dancer
Mattaponi and Upper Mattaponi Tribes

The Mattaponi trace their history back to the Powhatan Confederation of tribes led by Chief Powhatan. The native people’s written language, Powhatan Syllabary, is also used by other Algonquin language speaking tribes.

In 1607, the Mattaponi Indians were identified by the English explorer John Smith, who noted that they were living along the Mattaponi River, and by William Strachey, who placed the number of their warriors at 140. The Mattaponi Tribe was 1 of the 6 tribes under the leadership of Chief Powhatan in the late 16th century.

Currently, the tribal members live in King William County on tribal lands that border the Mattaponi River.

William Bradby dressed in Mattaponi regalia
Mattaponi River (Tributary of the York River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay)
“Mattapament Flu” (i.e., River) and Indian Villages on John Smith’s Map of VA in 1624
Upper Mattaponi

The Upper Mattaponi tribe is a group of urban, non-reserved Indians whose origin can be traced to both the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Reservations. The Upper Mattaponi are a people of high morals and strong ties to Christianity, and their community is centered around the Indian View Baptist Church. Adjacent to the church, the Upper Mattaponi built the Sharon Indian School in about 1919. The school was renovated in 1952 and closed in 1964. In 1985, the King William County Board of Supervisors agreed to return the school and two acres of land to the tribe. This structure is now used as a tribal center and meeting place for approximately 100 members. The Upper Mattaponi sponsor an annual spring festival (dancers at right) to promote the culture and history of Indian people.
Mattaponi Pottery
(Very Rare)
Monacan Indian Nation

The Monacan are a group of people of mixed ancestry recognized as a Native American tribe by the state of Virginia.

They are located primarily in Amherst County, Virginia near Lynchburg, Virginia. As of 2005 there were approximately 1,400 members of this tribe. There are also satellite groups in West Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio.

The contemporary Monacan people claim to be descendants of an Eastern Siouan tribe of American Indians, first recorded in 1607 in Virginia. They are related to the Tutelo, Saponi.

In 1607, the Monacan were living above the falls at present-day Richmond and were reportedly hostile to other tribes of the Powhatan confederacy in the area.

In 1608, the English found two Monacan towns above the falls, called Massinacak and Mowhemenchough.

All these Monacan groups were closely related with the Siouan Manahoac to their north.
Monacan Indians Shown on both sides of the James River above the Falls on John Smith’s Map of 1624
Nansemond

**Nansemond** refers to a group of people of mixed ancestry, who have been recognized as a Native American tribe by the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with 7 other tribes in the state.

The Nansemond are Algonquian speaking natives and have traditionally lived along the Nansemond River in what is now the independent city of Suffolk, Virginia.

Historically, the Nansemond tribe was known for fishing, growing corn and bear hunting. Today they are known for their annual “pow wows” which are held in both Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia.
“Nandsamund” Ancestral Village Shown on John Smith’s Map of 1624
At the time of the settlement of Jamestown, in 1607, that region lying in Virginia between Potomac and James rivers was occupied by three great Indian confederacies: (1) the Mannahoac; (2) the Monocan; and (3) the Powhatan, who inhabited all that portion of the tidewater region lying north of the James River.

The largest of the 30 tribes making up the Powhatan confederacy was the Pamunkey. The original seat of the Pamunkey tribe was on the banks of the river which bears their name, and which flows somewhat parallel with James river into the Chesapeake Bay.
Pamunkey Indian Reservation Petition, King William County, Va., 6/26/1893.

“We, are the last descendants of the Powhatan tribe of Indians, now situated on a small reservation on the Pamunkey river, 24 miles from Richmond, Va., and one mile east of the historic White House where Gen. George Washington was married to his lovely bride in the St. Peter's Church.

We are now known as the Pamunkey tribe of Indians, following the customs of our forefathers, hunting and fishing, partly with our dugout canoes. We hereby authorize Terrill BRADBY to visit the Indian Bureau in Washington and in all other Departments and Indian tribes, and also to visit the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. We the undersigned, also request that whenever this petition is presented, the holder may meet with the favorable approbation of the public generally.”
In 1607, the Rappahannock were the dominant tribe of the Rappahannock River valley, maintaining thirteen villages along the north and south banks of the river named after them. Their capital town was Topahannocke (or Tappahannock circled on map). They were a peripheral group within the Powhatan Confederacy.

At their 1st meeting with the English in 1607, George Percy wrote a vivid description of their Chief having his body painted crimson, and his face painted blue sprinkled with silver. He wore a red deer-hair crown tied around his hair knot and a copper plate on the other side, with two feathers sticking up arranged like horns, and earrings made of bird-claws fastened with yellow metal.
The Rappahannock Tribe has occupied the Rappahannock River named by the tribe for 11,000 years. Their lands span from the Northern Neck on the Rappahannock to the Mattaponi Rivers and as far north as Fredericksburg, Virginia.

“The Place Where the Water Rises and Falls”

The Rappahannock Tribe has occupied the Rappahannock River named by the tribe for 11,000 years. Their lands span from the Northern Neck on the Rappahannock to the Mattaponi Rivers and as far north as Fredericksburg, Virginia.
Today's **Rappahannock Tribe** consists of a few hundred descendants of the original Rappahannock, Morattico (Maraughtacund), Portobacco, and Doeg tribes who merged in the late 17th century. Most tribe members now live in Essex, Caroline and King and Queen counties. [Tribal Dancers below – 8/26/2006]
### Unrecognized, Extinct, or Tribes No Longer Located in Virginia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Language Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assateaque (A)</td>
<td>Patowmeck (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani-Stohini/Unami (A)</td>
<td>*Powhatan (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appomatoc (A)</td>
<td>Tuscarora (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba (S)</td>
<td>*Tutelo &amp; Saponi (S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Cherokee (I)</td>
<td>Wicomico (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatan (A)</td>
<td>*Yuchi or Westo (Uchean)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manahoac (S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meherrin (I)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottaway (I)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occaneechi (S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paspahegh (A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Language Groups:**

- A = Algonquian;
- S = Siouan;
- I = Iroquoian

* = Representative tribes featured in this historical review.
Indian Language Groups of Virginia

Iroquoian

Algonquian

Siouan
American Indian Language Groups of Virginia

**Siouan**
- Siouan was spoken primarily in the Piedmont Region

**Iroquoian**
- The Cherokee were a part of this group
- Iroquoian was spoken in southwestern Virginia, near what is today North Carolina

**Cherokee**

**North Carolina**

**Algonquian**
- The Powhatan were a part of this group
- Algonquian was spoken primarily in the Tidewater region

**Powhatan**
Cherokee (I)

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are descended from Cherokees who did not participate in the march on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma Territory, primarily owing to the foresight of Chief Yonaguska (aka Drowning Bear) with the help of his adopted Caucasian son, William Holland Thomas. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians still practice many of the original ceremonies, and many prominent Cherokee historians are affiliated with, or members of the Eastern Band.

Tsali became a leader who opposed the removal and remained in the Cherokee Homeland with a small group of Cherokees. They formed an armed resistance to removal by the United States. Tsali was eventually captured and executed, but his band remained in their traditional homeland.
Cherokee Claims to Territory in Southeastern United States
Cherokee Indian Removal to Oklahoma – “Trail of Tears”
In the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, an unauthorized handful of Cherokee leaders “sold” all of tribal homelands to the United States for $5 million and land in what is now the State of Oklahoma. Subsequently, most of the Cherokee tribe members were forcibly marched west to OK from their homes in NC. Many Cherokees died on this march due to the effects of a very harsh Winter and a lack of food.

The “Trail of Tears” (at right), was painted by Robert Lindneux in 1942. It commemorates suffering of the Cherokee people under their forced removal to OK.
Trail of Tears Map from Perdue and Green 2007
Cherokee Winter House
Wolf Creek Cherokees of SW VA

The Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe, Inc. is now located in Stuart, Virginia amid the Blue Ridge Mountains.

At one time, the Cherokee owned all of Southwestern Virginia. But, this land was sold through a series of treaties with the Colony and/or the State of Virginia.

The Cherokee hunted in this area, raided their enemies during different wars, and visited forts and trading posts in the area. In the Treaty with the Cherokee at Hard Labor, SC in October, 1768, the British government purchased most of the tribal holdings east of the New River.

Cherokee Indians from NC would hunt in SW Virginia during the Spring, Summer, and Fall and return to Cherokee, NC in the Winter.
The bird pictograph (at right) on Paint Lick Mountain (below) in Tazewell Co., Virginia may have been done by the Cherokee Indians who lived in the area. This example is probably of the mythical “Thunderbird” that was thought to be responsible for thunder, lightening and rain. The Thunderbird is a prominent icon seen throughout the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex (SCC) which included Cherokee ancestors.
Tutelo & Saponi (S)

**Tutelo (also Totero, Totteroy, Tutera)** was a Siouan tribe, closely related to the Monacan and Manahoac peoples, known to be living above the Fall Line in present-day Virginia by 1607. Under pressure from English settlers, they joined with the Saponi. In 1740, they left Virginia and migrated north to seek protection from the Iroquois, where they were adopted by the Cayuga tribe in New York.

**Saponi**, is the name of one of the eastern Siouan tribes related to the Tutelo, Occaneechi, Monacan, Manahoac and other eastern Siouan peoples, whose ancestral homeland is in North Carolina and Virginia. The people known as the **Indians of Person County** were formally recognized by North Carolina in 1911 as an American Indian tribe. In 2003 they formally changed their name to Sappony. The **Haliwa-Saponi, a group based chiefly in Halifax County**, is another Native American band formally recognized by North Carolina (1965). They also changed their name to include a reference to Saponi.
"The Storyteller" and Halifax Co. Indians
Painting by Martin Pate, Newnan, GA from Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service
Powhatan (A)

Powhatan (also spelled Powatan and Powhaten, or Powhatan Renape) is the name of a Native American tribe of Indians. It is also the name of a powerful confederacy of tribes which they dominated in South-eastern Virginia north of the James River.

Also known as “Virginia Algonquians”, they spoke an eastern-Algonquian language known as Powhatan. They lived in what is now the eastern part of Virginia at the time of the first European-Native encounters there.

Their Chief “Wahunsunacock” created a mighty empire by conquering or affiliating by agreement with around 30 tribes covering much of eastern Virginia, called Tenakomakah (“densely-inhabited land”), and he himself was known as “Powhatan.”
"Powhatan" is a Virginia Algonquian word meaning "at the waterfalls". The original settlement of Powhatan was at the Falls of the James River. [Powhatan Hill in the independent city of Richmond is in the general vicinity of this Native American village.]
Replica of Powhatan Village in Richmond, VA
The Powhatan Confederacy The following list of *principal tribes* which formed the Powhatan Confederacy has been taken from C. W. Sams *The Conquest of Virginia*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powhatans</th>
<th>Pamunkeys</th>
<th>Mattaponis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrohatecks</td>
<td>Appomatucks</td>
<td>Youghtamunds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Smaller tribes** were also included in the Confederacy. Most lived North of the James River. They included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weanocks</th>
<th>Paspaheghs</th>
<th>Orzinies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickahominys</td>
<td>Tappahannas</td>
<td>Warascoyacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nansemonds</td>
<td>Chesapeake</td>
<td>Kecougtans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werowocomocos</td>
<td>Kiskiacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Powhatan Confederacy on
John Smith’s Map of 1624
Map of the Principal Area Included in the Powhatan Confederacy (Sams – Conquest of Virginia pg. 142)
Besides the capital village of "Powhatan" in the Powhatan Hill section of the eastern part of the current city of Richmond, another capital of this confederacy about 75 miles (121 km) to the east was called Werowocomoco. It was located near the north bank of the York River in present-day Gloucester County, Virginia.

Werowocomoco was described by the English colonists as only 15 miles (24 km) as the crow flies from Jamestown. Substantial archaeological evidence discovered in the early 21st century now locates the site on Purtan Bay, about 12 air miles from Jamestown.
Among tempered pottery fragments, arrowheads with fine projectile points, and other artifacts that place Powhatan Indians at Werowocomoco during the early 1600s, excavators found pieces of copper chemically identical to English copper uncovered at Jamestown. Experts think it likely that John Smith carried the metal scraps seen here in hopes of establishing a trade agreement for food. Local Indians valued copper for its luster.
Beginning in 1607, the encroachment of English settlers and their ever-growing numbers on what had been Indian lands resulted in conflicts which became almost continuous for the next 39 years.

After Wahunsunacocock’s death in 1618, hostilities escalated under the chiefdom of his brother, Opechancanough (pictured at right) who sought in vain to drive the Europeans away, leading the Indian Massacre of 1622 and another in 1644. These attempts saw strong reprisals from the English, ultimately resulting in the near elimination of the tribe.

The Powhatan Confederacy was largely destroyed by 1646.
Opechancanough Lead Warriors in Major Uprisings Against Settlers in 1622 & again in 1644. He was captured & killed by a soldier assigned to guard him in 1646.
Maps by Helen Roundtree
Yuchi or Westo (Uchean)

Yuchi, which means "situated yonder at a distance," The Yuchi refer to themselves as "TSO-YA-HA," or "children of the sun."

Their original residence in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama is ancient. Their residence in SW Virginia was on the Great War Path Trail near Saltville, VA.

Classified as “Uchean” linguistic stock, the Yuchi have a distinct language unrelated to the Algonquian, Siouan, or Iroquoian languages used by most other Indians residing in VA.
A Yuchi village on the North Fork of the Holston River (i.e., near Saltville, VA--circled) was attacked and decimated by Spanish Conquistadors fighting with Indian warriors from the village of Joara in NC under the command of Juan Pardo’s Sgt. Moyano in 1567.
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