

Glossary for Grade 4 Social Studies: Virginia Studies

History



- **abolitionist:** a person who is against the practice of slavery
- **blockade:** the closing off of a place by ships or troops to prevent entrance or exit
- **charter:** an official document from an organization granting certain rights and privileges
- **colonization:** the establishment of a colony
- **colony:** a new land or settlement still controlled by the original country
- **economic venture:** starting a business to make money
- **era:** a period of time with distinctive, or special, characteristics
- **finance:** to borrow money from a company and agree to pay the money back in the future
- **invader:** a person who takes over by force
- **migration:** people or animals moving from one place to another
- **minutemen:** soldiers who pledged to be ready to fight at a minute's notice
- **neutral:** not taking sides
- **patriot:** a person who is loyal or supports one's own country
- **revolt:** uprising against (government)
- **secede:** to withdraw or break away from a group or organization
- **secession:** the withdrawal of southern states from the Union



Geography



- **archaeology:** the study of past cultures by using artifacts
- **artifacts:** material evidence that people of long ago left behind
- **capital:** the city/town where the government building is located
- **capitol:** the actual main office/building of a government
- **culture:** the ideas, beliefs, and values of a group of people with shared traditions
- **Fall Line:** the natural border between the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont Regions, where rocks and waterfalls prevent further travel on the river and where the land rises sharply
- **fertile soil:** soil containing many minerals needed to grow strong plants
- **harvest:** to gather or pick ripe crops
- **peninsula:** a piece of land bordered by water on three sides
- **plateau:** an area of elevated land that is flat on top
- **preserve:** to prepare food so it will last longer and not decay
- **relative location:** the location of a place or region in relation to other places or regions



Economics



- **agriculture:** preparing and working the soil to produce crops; having to do with farming
- **barter:** the trading or exchanging of goods and services without the use of money
- **capital resources:** goods made (manufactured) by people and used to produce other goods and services
- **cash crop:** a crop that is grown to sell for money rather than for use by the growers
- **consumer:** a person who uses (consumes) goods and services
- **credit:** buying a good or service now and paying for it later
- **debt:** a good or service owed to another
- **enslaved:** people who were considered property of their owners and had no civil rights
- **export:** to send products to another location/place to sell
- **free Africans:** African people were allowed to own their own business and property, but were denied most civil rights
- **goods:** touchable items people make or use to satisfy needs and wants
- **human resources:** people at work
- **industrialize:** to introduce industry or manufacturing on a large scale
- **migrated:** people or animals that have moved to a different location
- **money:** a medium of exchange (currency, which includes coins and paper bills)
- **natural resources:** water, soil, wood, coal, air, and sun
- **producer:** a person who uses resources to make/produce goods and/or provides services
- **Reconstruction:** the time period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the Southern states back into the Union
- **rural:** life in the country/open farmlands
- **savings:** money put away to keep or spend at a later time
- **services:** activities that satisfy people's needs and wants
- **sharecropping:** an agreement where people could rent farmland, grow crops, and promise to pay back the landowner with crops when they were harvested
- **urban:** life in the city

Civics



- **assembly:** a lawmaking group of people gathered together for a meeting
- **authority:** a power or right delegated or given
- **boycott and sit-ins:** to refuse to conduct business or have contact with a person, group, country, or product; to protest by sitting down
- **burgesses:** representatives of the colonial government/General Assembly
- **civil rights:** the individual rights of all citizens to be treated equally under the law
- **Civil Rights Movement:** an organized manner to achieve the individual rights of all citizens to be treated equally under the law
- **constitution:** the principles or laws upon which a state or country is governed
- **delegate:** (n.) a person designated or chosen to act for or represent others
- **desegregation:** abolishment of racial segregation
- **discrimination:** an unfair difference in the treatment of people
- **executive:** branch of government responsible for carrying out the laws
- **integration:** full equality of people of all races in the use of public places and services
- **Jim Crow laws:** laws legally establishing segregation or separation of races/established by the southern states after Reconstruction
- **judicial:** pertaining to the court system that decides if laws have been broken
- **legislative:** having the function of making laws
- **Massive Resistance:** an organized plan against desegregation and opposed to the integrating of public schools
- **prejudice:** a negative opinion formed without proof
- **poll tax:** unfair tax which had to be paid before being allowed to vote
- **representative:** a person, usually elected, to act on behalf of others
- **segregation:** the separation of people, usually based on race or religion
- **separate, but equal:** people of different races would remain segregated, but have equal rights

