

RIVER RUN OF VIRGINIA

Purpose: Student will identify the 4 main rivers of Virginia that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Suggested Grade Level: 4

History & Social Science SOL: Virginia: The Physical Geography and Native Peoples VS.2

Equipment/Materials Needed: Cones (preferably 6-8 purple, red, yellow and green)

Advance Preparation:

1. Place purple cones in a horizontal line about 5 feet apart to represent the Potomac River.
2. Place red cones in a horizontal line about 5 feet apart and about 5-8 feet below the purple cones to represent the Rappahannock River.
3. Place the yellow cones in a horizontal line about 5 feet apart and about 5-8 feet below the red cones to represent the York River.
4. Place the green cones in a horizontal line about 5 feet apart and about 5-8 feet below the yellow cones to represent the James River.
5. Take extra cones and create a large circular area where the last of each colored cone is located to indicate the Chesapeake Bay.

Directions:

1. Tell students they will be traveling each of the 4 main rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.
2. Tell them they will do a different movement activity at each river to help remember the four rivers.
3. Place an equal number of students behind the first cone for each river.
4. Tell the purple (**P**otomac) group that they will **p**addle down the Potomac.
5. Tell the red (**R**appahannock) group that they will **r**un down the Rappahannock.
6. Tell the yellow (**Y**ork) group that they will **y**odel (or another activity you can think of that starts with the letter Y) as they walk down the York.
7. Tell the Jade-green (**J**ames) group that they will **j**ump down the James.
8. They will all end up in the Chesapeake Bay and they will crab walk in the bay until everyone has entered the bay. Ask students why you asked them to crab walk. It is because the Chesapeake Bay is known for crabs.
9. When all the students are in the bay, tell everyone to “freeze”.
10. Then tell students that when you say “go”, they will get in line at the river that is south of the one that they had been traveling through before, and if they were at the James, they will go to the northernmost river, the Potomac.
11. Say “go” and repeat the process until everyone has gone down all 4 rivers.

Teaching Suggestions:

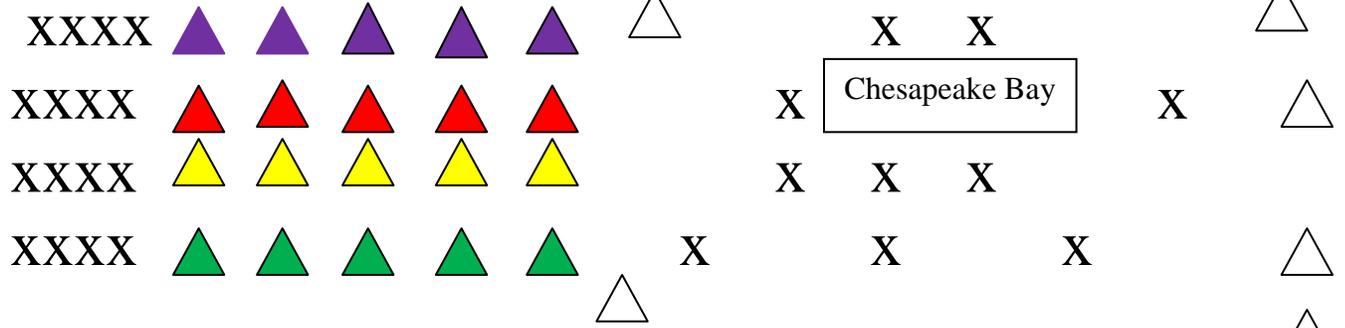
1. Prior to students beginning to travel down the rivers, point to each group and ask them what river they are. Remind students that when they are crab walking, they need to not bump into or step on any other students.
2. Ask students what major cities they pass as they went down each river.

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*Williamsburg Community
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Set up for Run the Rivers of Va.



X	- students
△	- cones
▲	- Potomac
▲	- Rappahannock
▲	- York
▲	- James