

## *Facts on Virginia*

*Capitol Building, Richmond*



*Photo provided by the Library of Virginia*

The cornerstone for the Virginia Capitol Building was laid on August 18, 1785; the building was completed in 1792. Modeled after the Maison Carree at Nimes, France, the Capitol was the first public building in the United States to be built using the Classical Revival style of architecture. Thomas Jefferson designed the central section of the Capitol, its most outstanding feature being the interior dome, which is undetectable from the exterior; the wings were added in 1906 to house the Senate and House of Delegates.

## FACTS ON VIRGINIA

Virginia was named for Queen Elizabeth I of England, the “Virgin Queen.” Virginia is also known as the “Old Dominion.” King Charles II of England gave it this name in appreciation of Virginia’s loyalty to the crown during the English Civil War of the mid-1600s. The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown in 1607; in 1619, the Jamestown colonists established the first representative legislature in America. Virginia entered the Union on June 25, 1788, the tenth state to do so. Virginia and the following three states are designated as Commonwealths: Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. The Virginia state capitol is the second oldest working capitol in the United States, having been in continuous use since 1788.

The following eight U.S. Presidents were born in Virginia: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson, giving Virginia the nickname the “Mother of Presidents.”

Virginia is also known as the “Mother of States.” All or part of the following eight states were formed from western territory once claimed by Virginia: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Virginia is home to the country’s largest port, Hampton Roads, and the second oldest college in America, The College of William and Mary, founded 1693 in Williamsburg. Virginia’s Natural Wonders include the Natural Bridge, Natural Chimneys, Natural Tunnel, and Luray Caverns.

**Population**.....7,458,900  
**Rank in Country** ..... 12th  
**Density per Square Mile** ..... 188.4

**Land Area (Square Miles)** .....39,597.8  
**Rank in Country** ..... 37th

**Capital City** .....Richmond  
**Population**.....197,800  
**Rank in State** ..... 4th

**Number of Counties** ..... 95  
**Number of Independent Cities** ..... 40  
**Number of Incorporated Towns** ..... 190

**Congressional Delegation:**  
 U.S. Senators..... 2  
 U.S. Representatives ..... 11  
 Electoral College Votes..... 13

**State Legislature:**  
 Senators..... 40  
 Delegates..... 100

**Ten Largest Counties:**  
 Fairfax .....1,033,600  
 Prince William .....350,345  
 Henrico .....284,000  
 Chesterfield .....291,000  
 Loudoun .....247,293  
 Arlington .....189,450  
 Stafford .....104,823  
 Spotsylvania.....101,928  
 Hanover..... 95,991  
 Roanoke ..... 87,400

**Ten Largest Cities:**  
 Virginia Beach .....425,257  
 Norfolk.....241,000  
 Chesapeake .....214,759  
 Richmond.....197,800  
 Newport News .....181,647  
 Hampton .....146,437  
 Alexandria.....135,000  
 Portsmouth.....99,349  
 Roanoke .....92,853  
 Lynchburg.....64,108

**Ten Largest Towns:**  
 Blacksburg .....40,066  
 Leesburg .....33,319  
 Herndon .....22,564  
 Christiansburg .....17,756  
 Vienna .....14,868  
 Front Royal .....14,160  
 Culpeper.....10,442  
 Pulaski .....9,173  
 Wytheville.....7,865  
 Abingdon .....7,750

*REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH*

**Official Emblems and Symbols:**

State Flower .....	Dogwood Blossom	State Beverage .....	Milk
State Tree .....	Dogwood	State Folk Dance .....	Square Dancing
State Bird .....	Cardinal	State Insect .....	Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly
State Dog .....	Foxhound	State Fossil .....	Chesapacten Jeffersonius
State Fish .....	Brook Trout	State Motto .....	Sic Semper Tyrannis (Thus Always to Tyrants)
State Shell .....	Oyster	State Bat .....	Virginia Big Eared Bat