

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Becoming a Homeplace	7	Becoming Confederates	71
Contact and Conflict	19	Becoming New Southerners	85
Becoming Virginians	33	Becoming Americans Again	97
Becoming Americans	43	Becoming Equal	109
Becoming Southerners	55	Becoming a New Virginia	125

The Exhibition, *The Story of Virginia, an American Experience*

This award-winning exhibition interprets 16,000 years of Virginia history from the earliest artifacts of Native Americans to Virginia at the beginning of the 21st century. In a 10,000-square-foot area, students can witness the cultural and historical transformations of the commonwealth as they travel from one gallery to another.

The Teachers Guide and Resource Book

Both the exhibition and the guidebook are organized around the theme of changing identity—thus the use of the word “becoming” in most sections. For example, “Becoming Virginians” refers to the creation of a new culture in Virginia from three distinct traditions—English, Native American, and African. The term “Becoming Southerners,” instead of “Antebellum Virginia,” is used to describe a growing sectional identity centered around the institution of slavery. The exhibition reinforces the idea that most of Virginia history speaks to larger themes in the history of our nation. The exhibition concludes by asking what it means to be a Virginian today and challenges the visitor to consider the role of Virginia in the 21st century. *The Story of Virginia is an American experience.*

Key Ideas

Each chapter begins with an overview followed by the key ideas for that section of the guide and exhibition.

Standards of Learning

Each chapter includes a list of the Standards of Learning that are covered for that specific period of history.

Icons

The following icons are found in each chapter and used to identify specific projects for students both in the classroom and in the galleries:



Activities

Activities for students are identified by this icon. “Lil’ Virginia” is a cartoon created for the computer history quiz at the end of the exhibition.



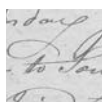
Critical Thinking

These are ideas to challenge students to analyze, critique, and evaluate.



In the Classroom & In the Museum

Suggested activities and projects may be completed either in the classroom or in the museum galleries. These activities may also be used for a self-guided tour.



Primary Source

Documents from the holdings of the Virginia Historical Society are used to show the importance of evaluating and analyzing original sources.