

## **Virginia: Where I live**

**by Aaron West**

Have you ever wanted to know more about where you live? I live in a state that plays an important role in the history of America. The first American settlement was in Virginia.

Virginia became the 10th state in 1788. It is 42,772 square miles with a population of 8,001,024. The state got its name from Queen Elizabeth "the Virgin Queen." But its nickname is Mother of Presidents.

Richmond is the capital of Virginia. The state bird is the Northern cardinal, the state tree and flower is the American Dogwood.

Coal is the state's leading mining product, but the big money comes from livestock. Virginia also has the largest internet provider.

Virginia is on the southeast coast of the US and it is made up of 5 major regions: Appalachian Plateau, Valley, Ridge, Blue Ridge, and Coastal Plain. Virginia Beach is the largest city in Virginia.

Jamestown, a city in Virginia, was the first English settlement and the people were native American. The Civil War and the end of the American revolution were fought in Virginia. As I mentioned before, Virginia is the "Mother of Presidents" because eight of the US presidents were born here; including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

Virginia has lots of animals but only has three poisonous snakes; including the cottonmouth, copperhead, and the timber rattlesnake. Because it is on the east coast it also has lots of sea life.

There are many places to visit in Virginia including; Jamestown, Monticello, Skyline Drive, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, Virginia Beach, and my favorite Busch Gardens.

After doing the research for this paper, I now know a little more about where I live.